

New Poster inside ... plus a Holiday message.

December 2002
www.soldiersmagazine.com



The Official

Soldiers

**Serving
God
and
Country**

**The Blue-Green
Christmas**

**Stryker in
the Spotlight**

Soldiers

December 2002 Volume 57, No. 12



The Official U.S. Army Magazine

Secretary of the Army: Thomas E. White
Chief of Staff: GEN Eric K. Shinseki
Chief of Public Affairs: MG Larry D. Gottardi
Chief, Command Information: COL James M. Allen

Soldiers Staff

Editor in Chief: LTC John E. Suttle
Managing Editor: Gil High
Production Editor: Steve Harding
Art Director: Helen Hall VanHoose
Associate Art Director: Paul Henry Crank
Senior Editor: Heike Hasenauer
Photo Editor: SSG Alberto Betancourt
Special Products Editor: Beth Reece
Graphic Designer: LeRoy Jewell
Executive Secretary: Joseph T. Marsden

Printing: Gateway Press, Inc.

Soldiers (ISSN 0093-8440) is published monthly under supervision of the Army Chief of Public Affairs to provide the Total Army with information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Department of the Army. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. ■ Manuscripts of interest to Army personnel are invited. Direct communication is authorized to **Editor, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Suite S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**. Phone: DSN 656-4486 or commercial (703) 806-4486. Or send e-mail to soldiers@belvoir.army.mil. ■ Unless otherwise indicated (and except for "by permission" and copyright items), material may be reprinted provided credit is given to **Soldiers** and the author. ■ All photographs by U.S. Army except as otherwise credited.

■ Military distribution: From the U.S. Army Distribution Operations Facility, 1655 Woodson Road, St. Louis, MO 63114-6181, in accordance with Initial Distribution Number (IDN) 050007 subscription requirements submitted by commanders. ■ The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the department. ■ Use of funds for printing this publication was approved by the Secretary of the Army on Sept. 2, 1986, in accordance with the provisions of Army Regulation 25-30. Library of Congress call number: U1.A827. ■ Periodicals postage paid at Fort Belvoir, VA, and additional mailing offices. ■ Individual domestic subscriptions are available at \$38 per year through the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. For credit card orders call (202) 512-1800 or FAX (202) 512-2250. ■ To change addresses for individual subscriptions, send your mailing label with changes to: Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop SSOM, Washington, DC 20402. ■ POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Fort Belvoir address above.

www.soldiersmagazine.com

MC '02 at NTC

14 Stryker in the Spotlight

The Stryker — the Army's new, wheeled infantry carrier vehicle — was the focus of attention during the Army portion of Exercise Millennium Challenge 2002 at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.



FEATURES

4 Serving God and Country

Chaplains offer spiritual guidance wherever soldiers feel a need for the presence of God.

20 Kitchen Artistry

Ensuring that the food soldiers eat is both nourishing and appetizing is as much an art as it is a science.

24 From Horse Blood to Hot Pockets

Military rations have come a long way since Mongol horsemen used their mounts as last-ditch nutrition sources.



20

24



30



Holiday Message ◀13



30 One Tough Track

The Army and Marine Corps have joined forces in the creation of a state-of-the-art vehicle test track.

33 The Blue-Green Christmas

Texas Guard members help make the holidays memorable for families in need.

34 Leapfest '02

Every year soldiers from around the world gather for the International Military Parachute Competition.

47 Soldiers Index

Soldiers Radio **Live** ◀12

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Feedback
- 10 Briefings
- 36 Sharp Shooters
- 40 Postmarks
- 42 Legal Forum
- 44 Focus On People
- 46 Around the Services
- 49 Corps of Engineers — The White House



Front cover:

A special forces soldier prays during a candle-light service in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan. — Photo by Staff Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo, USAF

From the Editor

A POPULAR theme in religious literature is the journey into the wilderness. There the protagonist would endure great hardship, suffering and trial. He would emerge from the desert with a profound knowledge of his strengths and weaknesses and with his mission and purpose on Earth crystal clear.

For a modern-day desert ordeal, Steve Harding takes us to the Mojave Desert in "Stryker in the Spotlight," where the Army's first Stryker Combat Brigade Team was put to the test during Exercise Millennium Challenge 2002.

While fasting often was a part of ancient desert religious experiences, today's desert warriors are in no danger of going hungry. In "From Horse Blood to Hot Pockets," Heike Hasenauer takes a look at the evolution of Army rations. And in "Kitchen Artistry," Beth Reece takes us to Fort Lee, Va., for a look at the making of Army chefs.

Finally, Beth journeys to the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson, S.C., for a look at the making of Army chaplains.

All of us at Soldiers wish you the happiest of holidays.

John C. Suttle

USMA Athlete

I'd like to respond to CPT Joe Berger's October Feedback letter complaining about West Point graduate Andy Lundbohm leaving the service to play professional hockey — before his five-year military commitment had been fulfilled.

I am willing to wager that the number of U.S. Military Academy graduates who actually get the opportunity to compete in professional sports is less than one half of one percent per year.

Like economics, athletes hit a point (or an age) of diminishing returns. On average, this age is around 24. It would therefore not be feasible for some of these gifted men and women to soldier for five years and then try to play their respective sports at their peak levels.

In most cases of these select one or two per year, part of the athlete's contract goes to paying the Army a large sum of money. If CPT Berger could pay half of his \$200,000 contract to chase his dream, I imagine that he would do it, too.

*CPT Jamie Uptgraft
Fort Hood, Texas*

We've had many letters regarding Andy Lundbohm's apparently abbreviated active military career, so we contacted West Point for clarification. We received the following reply from Joseph V. Tombrillo, the chief of command information in West Point's Public Affairs Office:

"Andrew Alan Lundbohm, USMA Class of 1999, graduated and was commissioned a

More Poster Praise

I'm a member of the California National Guard, and am working in the California Department of Justice's Anti-Terrorism Information Center. I put up the "Army of One" poster from the September issue, and everyone loved it!

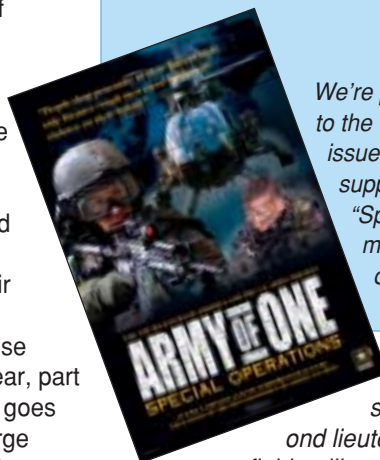
Here's my question: How can I get more copies of the poster and the magazine?

*SGT William Heintz
via e-mail*

I'm sure you've received lots of similar requests, but how can I obtain a copy of the "Army of One" poster that was in the September issue? The copy had already been removed before the magazine reached our unit.

*SPC Thomas C. Wilkinson
Fort Pickett, Va.*

We're pleased at the very positive response to the "Let's Roll" poster from the September issue. For additional copies, contact us while supplies last. For additional copies of the "Special Operations" poster in this month's issue, ask your publications officer to order DA POSTER 360-213 DEC 02.



*sec-
ond lieutenant, field artillery, on May 29, 1999. His active-duty service obligation upon graduation and commissioning was five years.*

Part of the confusion on Andy Lundbohm may be that from 1997 on, all graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point received Army Reserve commissions. All were required to serve on active duty. Before this, all graduates were commissioned in the Regular Army. Another issue, and perhaps of greatest consequence, is that whatever was worked out between LT Lundbohm and the Army was done after his graduation from West Point.

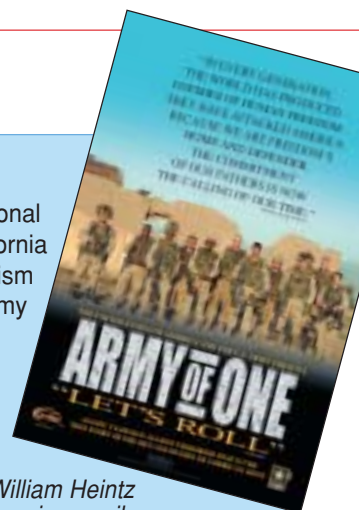
We are aware of some

exceptions granted by U.S. Total Army Personnel Command to lieutenants for early release from the active-duty service obligation on a case-by-case basis, but these were normally for downsizing issues within specific year groups. We do not know if LT Lundbohm asked for or was granted one of these exceptions."

No Printed LES?

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service "MyPay" Web site has an option that allows service members to stop the hard-copy delivery of their leave and earning statements (LESs). The reason given for going to electronic-only LESs is that it gives more privacy and saves money.

The problem is that turning



off the hard-copy delivery option does not work for Army personnel. A DFAS person I spoke with had talked to the EMSS people, who said that Army commanders need the LESSs for some reason.

But the MyPay site does not mention this requirement for Army personnel. So LESSs — which carry our Social Security numbers, bank account numbers and pay information — continue to be seen by several people before they get to us.

Doesn't sound real secure, does it?

*MSG Kenneth R. Shepherd
Evansville, IN*

More on the Beret

I happened across the discussion about the issuing of the black beret while perusing September's "Feedback," and have since read the entire

series, from the original letter to the latest reply in the October edition.

In line with SSG Scott's point, I cheerfully volunteer to send our anonymous comrade in arms my one beret, through the good offices of the "Soldiers" staff, so that he/she can use their clothing allowance on something else.

After all, it *is* the mission of the Reserve to support our active-duty brethren.

*SPC Richard C. Adams
via e-mail*

Soldiers — whether active, National Guard or Reserve — should realize that the black berets, like any other equipment item, have to be issued in some logical order. And, just as with the M-4 rifle, fielding of the beret began with the units that were the most deployable.

It truly blows my mind that so many soldiers would even

feel it necessary to write letters justifying how "important" they and their units are, and how it's so necessary for them to get black berets at the same time as everyone else.

Anyone who truly thinks it through would realize that the

black beret is only a form of headgear, not a mission-essential piece of equipment, and its absence won't keep any real soldiers from doing their jobs.

*SSG James Ortega
Fort Bragg, N.C.*

Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers**, 9325 Gunston Road, Suite S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581, or e-mail: soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.



Order Processing Code:

* 5905

☐ YES, please send _____ subscriptions to: **Soldiers**

The total cost of my order is \$ _____.

Name or title (Please type or print)

Company name Room, floor, suite

Street address

City State Zip code+4

Daytime phone including area code

Purchase order number (optional)



Credit card orders are welcome!

Fax your orders (202) 512-2250

Phone your orders (202) 512-1800

(SOL) at \$38 each (\$53.20 foreign) per year.

Price includes regular shipping & handling and is subject to change.

Check method of payment:

☐ Check payable to: Superintendent of Documents

☐ GPO Deposit Account ☐

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

☐

(expiration date)

☐

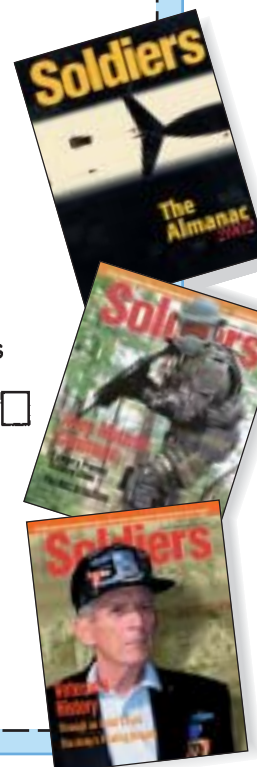
Authorizing signature

Date

Mail to: Superintendent of Documents, PO Box 371954, Pittsburgh PA 15250-7954

Important: Please include this completed order form with your remittance.

Thank you for your order!



Serving God



and Country

Story and Photos by Beth Reece



PICTURE war without someone to pray for soldiers' souls, birth without baptism or a marriage without the wedding ceremony.

"I can't imagine the Army without a chaplaincy. What we do in helping people connect with God lasts forever. It's eternal," said CSM Robin Rankin of the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson, S.C.

More than 2,500 active-duty and reserve-component chaplains currently serve God and country by providing religious support to soldiers and families stationed around the world. They offer spiritual guidance in chapels, foxholes, dining facilities, motor pools and anywhere else soldiers feel a need for the presence of God.

☀ Training Army Chaplains

To become an Army chaplain, candidates must be ordained and obtain approval from their faith group's national headquarters. Chaplain candidates then spend three months in the Chaplain Officer Basic Course at USACHCS learning such skills as conducting military funerals, advising family support groups and providing religious services on the battlefield.

"Most chaplain candidates arrive here knowing they want to serve their country but not knowing anything about how the Army works," said USACHCS's commandant, Chaplain (COL) Hal Roller. "We have to teach them the fundamentals of soldiering — starting with how to wear the uniform — and at the same time instill in them the uniqueness of their jobs as military chaplains."

USACHCS instructors stress the ministry-of-presence concept.

"How many civilian pastors actually get to go to the factory with their parishioners? Deploying and training alongside soldiers not only enhances the Army ministry," Roller explained, "it *is* the ministry."

The basic course starts with combat-survival training and includes physical fitness, first aid, map reading, and day and night



Nella Hobson

Chaplain candidates at USACHCS learn the value of teamwork on the confidence course. Here, two candidates help another to the top of an obstacle.

“We deal with deployments and family separations, and sometimes we face life-and-death situations. Civilian pastors aren’t used to handling such hardships...”

land navigation. Chaplain candidates also run confidence courses, rappel and learn to use protective gear during a trip to the gas chamber.

The transformation to military ministry continues with instruction on leadership, communication and counseling, Army writing and military history.

Though chaplains provide individual and family counseling, as do civilian clergy members, USACHCS helps students understand that soldiers’ trials often differ from those of civilian congregants.

“We deal with deployments and family separations, and sometimes we face life-and-death situations. Civilian pastors aren’t used to handling such hardships in their hometown parishes,” said chaplain candidate CPT Jim Stagers, a recent USACHCS graduate and National Guard member who leads a small rural church in Indiana.

With the U.S. military presence spread across the globe, chaplains must also advise commanders on religious and cultural issues prevalent

in numerous areas of operations. That means providing such details as soldiers’ proper dress when leaving the compound, and which days are considered holy by local religious custom.

“Back home in Oklahoma churches are far apart, and if one is bombed we’ll just build another. But some countries have shrines almost everywhere, and if you bomb a single one there can be major consequences,” said Chaplain (MAJ) Jo Ann Mann, an instructor for the basic course. “These factors are an important part of mission planning.”

Perform or Provide

Army chaplains are categorized into five faith groups: Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim and Orthodox. To show the wide span of each group,

PVT Shirley Irons shoots an azimuth. Land navigation is a vital skill for chaplain assistants, who must be able to get their chaplains to where they’re needed.



Nella Hobson



Like all soldiers, chaplains must be ready to face whatever conditions may exist in the field. The training at USACHCS helps ensure they have the necessary field skills.



Though they do not perform services or sacraments of denominations other than their own, chaplains coordinate religious support for soldiers of all faith groups.

Chaplain (LTC) Charles Howell, USACHCS' chief of officer training, noted that there are more than 1,600 Protestant denominations in America. Of 63 chaplain students attending a recent basic course, 35 denominations were represented.

The need to accept religious diversity is nonnegotiable for military chaplains. Though not required to compromise their individual faiths by performing services of other denominations, chaplains are required to arrange appropriate religious support for soldiers of all faith groups.

"If someone comes to me and says, 'Chaplain, I've got a crisis,' my first question is 'What is your faith group?' If he says he's Lutheran, I'm ready to talk. But if he says he's Roman Catholic I have the responsibility of putting that soldier in touch with a Catholic priest," said Chaplain (COL) Hank Steinhilber, the USACHCS director of training.

"So there's no evangelistic fervor

The Chaplain's Eyes and Ears

PFC Nathan Kane would follow his chaplain anywhere.

"If I were out there dying, I'd hope another chaplain assistant would have the strength to protect the chaplain's life at all costs so I could be comforted by someone of my faith," Kane said.

All Army chaplains are paired with an assistant whose main goal in combat is to keep the unarmed chaplain alive. Though assistants provide an array of support in garrison and field environments, much of their training focuses on wartime survival.

"Map reading and land navigation are two of the most important things for a chaplain assistant to know," said SFC Edgar Epps, an AIT instructor at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson, S.C. "If we can't read an eight- or six-digit grid coordinate and can't orient ourselves with the land, then we won't be able to get around. And if we can't get to where the soldiers are located, chaplains can't do their jobs."

Assistants are so crucial to the protection of chaplains' lives that even during field religious services they keep watch for approaching enemies.

But chaplain assistants are more than lifesavers, said Epps, who likes to think of assistants as a "conglomerate of professionals."

"We do logistics, finance, security and just about everything a head-quarters company does. We possess many talents," he said.

In garrison, assistants prepare for services, safeguard privileged communication that passes between chaplains and those they counsel, maintain volunteer information, identify suicide risk factors, purchase chapel supplies and more. And since chaplain assistants are enlisted, they are often the first to be aware of problems in the unit.

"A chaplain assistant is the chaplain's eyes and ears," said MSG Linda Gandy, chief of enlisted training at the school. "A private is going to go to another private and a specialist is going to go to another specialist before they talk to the captain about what's on their minds. It's the buddy thing."

Chaplain assistants are taught to get out and mingle with other soldiers. "You can't stay in the office and be an effective chaplain assistant," Gandy added. "You have to be visible, and you have to get to know the people in the unit."

Most chaplain assistants join the Army with the desire to take care of other people, according to Epps.

"A lot of people still associate us with coffee and donuts after Sunday services," he said. "But we do one of the most important jobs in the Army. We help make way for people to practice their First Amendment right of religious freedom." — *Beth Reece*



PFC Peter Keith stands guard while his chaplain, who cannot carry arms, provides religious services.



Chaplains provide religious services in hospitals, motor pools, confinement facilities, field sites and anywhere else soldiers feel the need for pastoral guidance.

in the sense of stealing other people's sheep. If someone tells me they're Baptist, I want them to be the best Baptist they can be, so I help them get to a Baptist chaplain who can help work out whatever problems they have," Steinhilber added.

According to Mann, handling religious pluralism is a matter of treating other soldiers as she would like to be treated. She reminds chaplain candidates to reach out to the soldiers in their units and discover the unique needs of those who practice faiths other than their own.

"I remember getting ready for a training exercise in Korea when two Muslim soldiers came to me and said

they were concerned about being in the field during Ramadan," she said. "I admit I had no idea what Ramadan was at the time."

Learning that the two Muslim soldiers couldn't eat pork, salt or white flour, Mann arranged suitable meals through the unit's mess sergeant. She also encouraged the commander to place the two soldiers in the same location during the exercise so they could observe their religious traditions together.

"If I hadn't been there, I don't know who would've spoken for the soldiers. There's a tendency to blow people off when they're different," Mann said. "But I was able to offer the

expression that the Army took their faith seriously. It's an incredible thing when someone helps you affirm and practice your faith, even though it's not their own."

Jewish Chaplain (CPT) Henry Soussan is a recent USACHCS graduate, currently stationed at Fort Sill, Okla. One of several foreign nationals who've joined the Army Chaplaincy, the German native said he feels free to express his views in the Army, and gladly pledges to support soldiers of all faith groups.

"I don't think there's anything like this in the world, where there is such a degree of pluralism and culturalism," he said. "The chaplain program shows

"The chaplain program shows how strong American democracy is. It validates every person's beliefs."

how strong American democracy is. It validates every person's beliefs."

The Human Dimension

Chaplains are sought for their compassion and unbiased views. Their advice is frequently solicited by commanders who struggle with questions of how to best discipline soldiers.

"A commander will say, 'Tell me the part I can't see. Why shouldn't I 'burn' this soldier? Why shouldn't I kick this soldier out of the Army? Why shouldn't we shell that hospital the enemy is using as a shelter?'" said Howell.

Since chaplains do not bear arms, in accordance with the Geneva Convention, soldiers may wonder why the Army doesn't simply contract civilian clergy to provide religious support.

"The most critical time in a person's life is when they're being shot at, and that's when you really can't get local Sunday school teachers or pastors to drop what they're doing and jump into the trenches," Howell said.



Chaplain assistants prepare for services in both garrison and field environments, helping ensure that the religious experience is as meaningful as possible.

Army chaplains also help counter the destruction and hatred soldiers sometimes face in combat. By helping soldiers understand the ethics of what they do in war, chaplains offer soldiers a healthy perspective on right and wrong, said Chaplain (MAJ) Randall Dolinger, senior instructor for the USACHCS Chaplain Career Course, which is attended by chaplains who've served for five or more years.

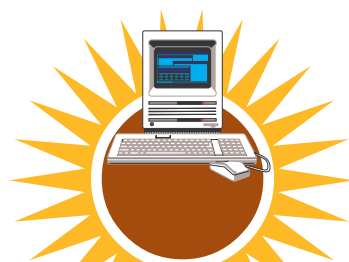
"We help them make the distinction that, yes, they fired a weapon; yes, they killed someone. But they did it in combat for a reason which doesn't exist at home," he said.

Some may question whether military and religious values are contradictory, but the school's commandant points out that Army values are an expression of religious values.

"Religion is a part of humanity. It defines our nature and who we are, and it's always been a foundation of American society," Roller said. "To be without the chaplaincy would leave a tremendous void in the American Army." □



A chaplain's guidance can help soldiers understand the ethics of what they do in war, and offer them a healthy perspective on right and wrong.



To learn more about becoming an Army chaplain, visit
<http://chaplain.goarmy.com>.



and the War on Terrorism

Each of the services in October announced decreases of reserve-component members on active duty in support of the partial mobilization. At press time, 31,324 Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers were on active duty. The total number of reserve-component personnel for all services was 59,990, including both units and individual augmentees.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announced six concept finalists in the Pentagon Memorial competition after a jury reviewed 1,126 entries that met competition rules. Each competitor received a stipend to help defray costs of further development of their ideas, and jurors will meet again this month to select the winning concept. The site for the memorial is on the grounds of the Pentagon near where the hijacked airliner hit the building on Sept. 11, 2001.

Congress passed military spending legislation that gives the Department of Defense a nearly \$40 billion boost as it continues the war on terrorism and prepares for possible war with Iraq. President George W. Bush said the budget increase will "provide our troops with the best pay, the best equipment and the best possible training. It also sends an important signal that we are committed to defending freedom and defeating terror."

Selected special forces noncommissioned officers near retirement are being offered cash bonuses if they choose to remain on active duty. Soldiers with various specialties are eligible to receive an \$8,000- to \$10,000-a-year bonus if they sign on for two or more years of service. The re-enlistment incentives followed a September announcement that soldiers who had been affected by Stop-Loss initiatives would be allowed to request voluntary separation from the Army. Since Stop-Loss was partially lifted, some personnel officials were concerned that the Army would lose some of its retirement-eligible soldiers in military occupational specialties that are already short.

The Afghan National Army gained a third battalion when more than 360 trainees graduated Oct. 3 and departed for a Ministry of Defense facility outside the city. The 1st Bn., 3rd Special Forces Group, from Fort Bragg, N.C., trained two of the first three battalions that went through the program, and began training the fifth battalion in late October. French soldiers trained the second and fourth battalions.



SSG Sterling Deck and SFC Gregory Thompson send Christmas greetings from aboard an E-8C JSTARS aircraft operating high above Afghanistan. The two are members of the sophisticated reconnaissance aircraft's joint-service crew.

SPC John Townsend (left) of the 82nd Airborne Division and Spanish army Sgt. Miguel Acosta (right) fire weapons during a familiarization event sponsored by the Italian army contingent in Afghanistan.

SPC Marie Schult



Soldiers at Bagram Air Base cheer the start of the NASCAR Monte Carlo 400 auto race, which was televised with four live shots from the allied base in Afghanistan.



SPC Marie Schult

PFC Matthew Acosta



PFC Christopher Estrada, a forward observer with the 82nd Airborne Division's 3rd Battalion, 505th Infantry Regiment, radios information to the security-force commander for Afghanistan's Kandahar region.



PFC Daniel Williams and PVT Joshua Carr of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, brace themselves as their 120mm mortar fires a round downrange during training near Kandahar Airfield.



SPC Jason B. Baker



SGT Jennifer-Rebecca Williams discusses SRTV's new live-radio initiative with deputy chief of Army public affairs BG Robert E. Gaylord during the annual convention of the Association of the U.S. Army.

Soldiers Radio

Live

SOLDIERS Radio and Television is webcasting music, live Department of Defense news briefings and Army radio news 24-hours-a-day on the Army Homepage.

The new service began during the Association of the U.S. Army's annual meeting, when SRTV webcast Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White's opening remarks on Oct. 21 and a delayed broadcast of Army Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki's Oct. 22 speech. Throughout the conference SRTV conducted live one-on-one interviews with other senior Army leaders. The interviews were interspersed with musical programming, news and announcements.

SRTV has secured permission to webcast vast digital libraries of classic rock, country and other contemporary music through agreements with a number of music licensing companies.

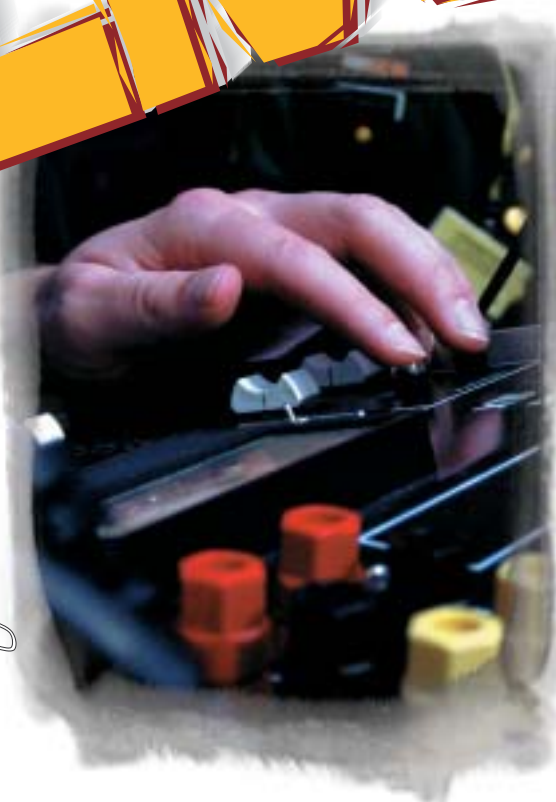
The programming is broadcast in the most advanced format available — MPEG4. Currently the best free player available for MPEG4 is Quicktime Version 6. □

**QuickTime 6
MPEG 4 Format
Free Player Available**

To access Soldiers
Radio Live, and to install
Quicktime, go to the Army
homepage at

www.army.mil

and click on "**Soldiers Radio Live**" at the left-hand side of the page.



2002 HOLIDAY Message



***"We could not
be more proud
of all of you
and of the
magnificent
work you do
each and every
day to pre-
serve the gifts
of hope and of
freedom that
we cherish."***

During the holidays, families gather to share in the celebrations of the season. Our Army family is unique — among us, we share a special bond, a common understanding of the inherent sacrifices and hardships of being an Army family. So we are additionally blessed to be able to celebrate our special heritage — the legacy of hope that our Soldiers represent to the Nation.

On a bitter-cold Christmas night in 1776, General George Washington and his Continental Army crossed the Delaware River to execute a bold plan against the British forces. Driving sleet and snow made the freezing temperatures all the more unbearable. Despite those harsh conditions, the Soldiers did not complain — some of them had no shoes; some wrapped rags around their feet to help keep them warm; still others remained barefoot. As one of General Washington's staff officers recorded, the Soldiers were "ready to suffer any hardship and die rather than give up their liberty." In the most difficult conditions, against the greatest odds, the Soldiers performed magnificently, and their victory in the Battle of Trenton the day after Christmas renewed the hopes of freedom in the American Revolution.

And undiminished still today is that same spirit of determination, perseverance, selfless service and courage that moved the Soldiers of the Continental Army on Christmas night in 1776. We share in the enduring legacy of those who first fought and died to win our freedom — we stand on the shoulders of the brave men and women who have preceded us.

We know that we do not soldier alone. With each of our Soldiers on point in more than 120 countries around the globe is the spirit of a tremendous family — a family whose courage, sacrifice, and steadfastness are inspiring to us all. And all of our efforts, all of our successes, all of our magnificent moments as an Army will continue to be delivered by our people — Soldiers, civilians, veterans, retirees, and all of their families. We are grateful for their commitment, their loyalty, and their devotion.

We could not be more proud of all of you and of the magnificent work you do each and every day to preserve the gifts of hope and of freedom that we cherish. May you have a safe, fulfilling, and joyful Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year. God bless each of you and your families, God bless The Army, and God bless this great Nation.

Eric K. Shinseki
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Thomas E. White
Secretary of the Army



Stryker in

Story by Steve Harding

WHEN the soldiers of the Army's Stryker Brigade Combat Team took their innovative vehicles to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., a few months ago, they knew they'd be challenged by the harsh desert and NTC's world-class opposing force.

What they didn't expect was the intensity of the news media's focus on every aspect of the Stryker's performance.

"Yes, we seem to be attracting a fair amount of attention," said MAJ James Lechner, executive officer of the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry. "It seems like just about everybody is interested in how we do out here."

That interest is not surprising, Lechner said, given that the Fort Lewis, Wash.-based SBCT — formally known as 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Division — is a key component of the Army's transformation strategy.

"This is a new type of unit, using cutting-edge systems," he said. "The Army has invested a lot of time, effort, money and technology in us, and now it's time for us to show what we can do." *(continued on page 16)*

the Spotlight

A full-page photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a Stryker infantry carrier vehicle is parked on sandy ground. The vehicle is equipped with various antennas and has its rear ramp lowered. A large black tarp is draped over the back of the vehicle. The background consists of vast, flat, sandy desert terrain extending to a range of low mountains under a clear blue sky.

A Stryker infantry carrier vehicle of the Fort Lewis-based 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div., is dwarfed by the vast open spaces of the National Training Center during Army Transformation Experiment 2002. Steve Harding



An Air Force C-130 brings the first Stryker into NTC's Bicycle Lake Airfield.

Into the Desert

The SBCT's chance to demonstrate its capabilities, while at the same time refining its own operational techniques, came in late July. Sixteen Stryker infantry carrier vehicles and nearly 1,000 3rd Bde. soldiers deployed to NTC to participate in Army Transformation Experiment 2002, the Army component of the much larger joint-services exercise known as Millennium Challenge 2002 [see sidebar on page 19].

"The Army's part of MC 02, ATEx 02, is all about information superiority and rapid and decisive operations," said COL Abe Turner, the 82nd Airborne Div.'s assistant division commander for operations and commander of the Army forces "fighting" at NTC.

"The Strykers can potentially enhance both," he said. "Their onboard electronic systems give them a tremendous ability to send and receive vital intelligence and situational-awareness information, while their speed and maneuverability could contribute tremendously to the overall pace and decisiveness of the battle."

Determining the extent of the Stryker's potential was a major goal of ATEx 02, Turner said, as was finding out how well the vehicle would stand up to the tactical and mechanical challenges of high-tempo operations in a harsh environment.

"We've been training intensely at Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center, of course," Lechner said. "But this is the first time we've been able to come to the field with a force that

"... and it takes, on average, only about 15 minutes from the time the Stryker rolls off the C-130 until it's fully combat capable."

accurately replicates our full battalion, with all of the assets and electronic support we're supposed to have, and then work within the framework of a joint force."

Getting to the Fight

The first example of joint-force operations for the SBCT occurred when its Strykers were airlifted to California aboard Air Force C-17 transports. The vehicles then transferred to smaller C-130s and airlanded at NTC's Bicycle Lake Airfield, which had been "captured" earlier by 750 paratroopers of the 82nd Abn. Div.'s 1st Bn., 325th Inf. Regiment.

"Once the 82nd Abn. had taken the airfield and established a perimeter, we came in to build combat power behind them," Lechner said. "We set up an assembly area, then brought in the Strykers and our tactical operations center."

Because of weight and size limitations, each C-130 brought in just one Stryker, each of which had certain exterior fittings lowered so that soldiers and airmen could safely move around the aircraft's interior once the



vehicles were loaded. When the Stryker rolled clear of the plane's ramp, soldiers moved in quickly to raise the antennas, reinstall exterior stowage racks and put the top-mounted weapon system back in place.

"The whole process is fairly simple," Lechner said, "and it takes, on average, only about 15 minutes from the time the Stryker rolls off the C-130 until it's fully combat capable."



With its antennas and weapon mount lowered, the Stryker rolls from the C-130's ramp.

Mark Loi

Intro Battle

The whole purpose of including the SBCT in ATEx 02 was to evaluate the unit's ability to deploy quickly and, once in the operational area, use its unique maneuver capability and information superiority to take decisive action. And that's exactly what the SBCT did over the course of operations at NTC, Lechner said.

The Stryker's first mission was to secure a simulated weapons-of-mass-effect storage area. Manned by soldiers of the SBCT's Company A, 5th Bn., 20th Inf., the vehicles moved on the objective with the speed that is their hallmark.

"We isolated the first objective and a follow-on force secured it," Lechner said. "Then we went on to our second objective, a simulated surface-to-surface missile site."

The attack on the first objective required the Strykers to undertake a grueling 97-mile movement to contact, which they accomplished in just seven hours despite engaging enemy forces en route.

"That shows you one of the Stryker's real strengths," said 1LT Nathan A. Molica, Co. A's executive officer. "There's no other way we could have gotten that number of troops that far in the available time,



The Strykers proved themselves capable of carrying each squad's essential equipment.

Steve Harding

given the enemy situation. And the best part is that when those infantrymen came out the back of the vehicles, they were fresh and ready to fight.”

On the downside, Lechner said, the two actions cost Co. A eight Strykers — four in each fight — mainly to enemy tank fire.

“There’s no way around it — when light armored vehicles run into tanks unexpectedly, things won’t go well,” Molica said. “But remember that part of this experiment is to work out the tactics and procedures that will allow the vehicles to avoid such things as ambushes by armored vehicles.”

And, Molica pointed out, the Strykers’ speed and onboard Force XXI Battle Command-Brigade and Below system helped significantly reduce losses of troops and vehicles throughout the course of ATEx 02.

“The FBCB2 is an absolutely incredible tool,” Molica said. “The SBCT has information abilities that other units don’t have, and better reconnaissance assets than any other unit in the Army. So we get contact reports, intelligence reports and updates in real time via the FBCB2, and it all comes up right on the screen. The end result is that we can move

“No system comes out of this sort of complex and wide-ranging evaluation with a perfect score. And that’s the whole point — we want to uncover processes and systems that can be improved on.”

rapidly over vast distances, know exactly where the objective is and have complete situational awareness en route.

“There are certainly going to be times when you make contact with the enemy unexpectedly,” Molica added. “But the idea is to use the Stryker’s mobility and the FBCB2 to avoid stumbling blindly around the battlefield. And, by and large, we’ve been able to do that.”

Challenges and Solutions

Army officials present for ATEx 02 were quick to point out that the event was an experiment that, among other things, was intended to uncover shortcomings in the SBCT concept. And, they acknowledged, there certainly were some.

“No system comes out of this sort

of complex and wide-ranging evaluation with a perfect score,” Turner said. “And that’s the whole point — we want to uncover processes and systems that can be improved on.”

One of the key issues, Turner said, was finding ways to better manage and use the tremendous range of information being piped to soldiers at all levels via the Army Battle Command System and FBCB2, among other systems.

“There is a lot going on out here, and we want to understand the best way to gather, disseminate and use the range of information we take in from all our various sensors,” Turner said. “And though there have been some challenges in putting everything together, overall we’ve been very satisfied with all these systems and what they’ve brought to the decision-making process.”

In terms of Stryker itself, soldiers

said NTC's heat and harsh terrain revealed a few problems that hadn't come to light in the less challenging environments at Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center.

"Without an air conditioner, it can get real warm inside the vehicle," said one Co. A soldier, "and we seem to be having more tire problems here because of the sharp volcanic rock. And it would be nice if the remote weapon system on top of the vehicle was stabilized so we could acquire and engage a target on the move."

"There were other issues as well," Molica said, "though there's no one, overriding problem. It's just the usual series of small things that you find anytime you really put a system through a comprehensive field evaluation."

"And even when things have broken, we've been able to get them back on line very quickly," he added. "The mechanics have been right out here with us, living with us day to day. They've prepositioned spare parts and tires and such, and as soon as a vehicle goes down the mechanics are right on it. Overall, we've found Stryker to be very capable; it has a lot going for it."

Among Stryker's many strengths, said Co. A's soldiers, are its speed and firepower.

"This vehicle gets us to the fight quickly and the ride is great, so when we get to the objective we're not tired and our feet aren't sore," said PV2 Joseph Hurst. "It gives us better cover, and the onboard weapons provide a lot of good support."

"The ride is great," agreed SPC Richard Watson. "This vehicle will take us to the fight — even up a 60-degree hill — and when we get there a full infantry squad comes out the back. And it will carry all we need — ammunition, water, rucks — everything."

"Mobility is definitely the best thing about the Stryker," Molica said. "It allows you to cover a great distance in just a matter of hours, and get light infantry into the fight."

Another very positive thing is having the support of the onboard weapons, Lechner said.

"This isn't like a mechanized unit,

in which the vehicles form the primary assault force," he said. "The assault force in this unit is the dismounted soldier, but we still have the support of the Mk-19 grenade launcher and the .50-caliber machine gun. That's a huge asset for a platoon leader or company commander."

Asked if he and his soldiers are concerned about the vehicle's relatively light armor, Molica said: "It's always nice to feel that you have enough armor to keep you safe. But you have to realize that the purpose of this vehicle is to get dismounted soldiers to the fight quickly. It's not a

tank, and it's not intended to slug it out on the battlefield."

"The bottom line about Stryker is that it is a great platform that will be even better once we've addressed the issues that came up here at NTC," Lechner said. "We've learned a lot about the vehicle and how best to use it, and that was the whole point of coming here."

"Sure there have been challenges, as there always are when you field a new system," Molica said. "But I think Stryker is the right answer for the infantry, and I believe the Army really got it right this time." □



Though certainly not spacious, the Stryker provides adequate room for troops and equipment. The FBCB2 system (screen at center right, above fire extinguisher) provides intelligence and other vital information in real time.

Steve Harding

Millennium Challenge 2002

CONGRESSIONALLY directed in the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act, MC 02 was the first all-services warfighting experiment intended to explore how the joint forces of 2007 could conduct rapid and decisive operations against an adaptive, advanced and aggressive enemy.

Sponsored by the U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Va., the event took place from July 24 through Aug. 15 at eight actual and 17 simulated locations nationwide. Some 13,000 service members ashore, afloat and in the air evaluated 11 major concepts, 27 joint initiatives and 46 individual service initiatives.

Evaluation of the data gathered during MC 02 was continuing as this issue went to press. — *Steve Harding*



Kitchen *Artistry*

Story by Beth Reece Photos by Paul Disney

SOLDIER-CHEFS are two parts cook, one part artist. Consider PFC Nick Haupt as he fans sautéed snow peas around a mound of linguini. Even hurried eaters become connoisseurs as they eye Haupt's artistry with ordinary ingredients.

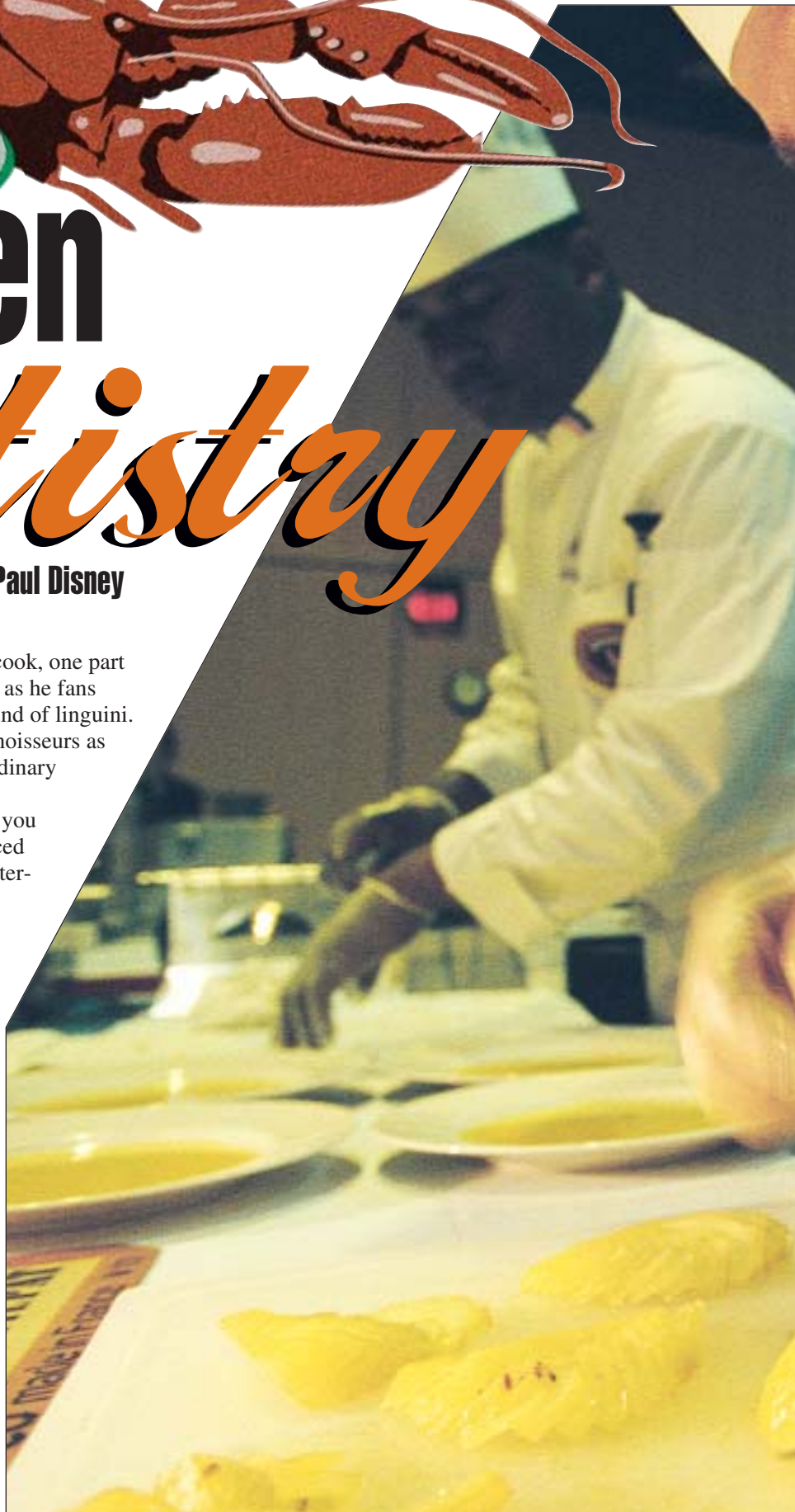
"If food looks and tastes good, it makes you feel good," said SSG René Marquis, advanced culinary skills instructor for the Army Quartermaster School, Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence, at Fort Lee, Va.

Food service specialists cater to patrons' likes and dislikes at more than 330 active-duty dining facilities worldwide. Though crowds can number up to 1,000 soldiers per meal, cooks dish out what Marquis said is the Army's biggest morale booster: good food.

The talent demonstrated in Army kitchens goes well beyond window-dressing or following recipes, according to CW2 Travis Smith, chief of ACES' Craft Skills Training Branch.



Special desserts — like the one being prepared here by SPC David Marecelli — often bring out the artist in Army chefs.







Though not every Army meal includes cakes as fancy as this one, being able to create such a wonderful confection is all part of the job for Army food service specialists.

“Preparing a good meal isn’t about dressing up food with pretty flowers cut out of vegetables. It’s about pairing compatible colors, shapes and sizes, and blending technique with intuition,” said Smith, who led the U.S. Army Culinary Art Team to a world championship in the 2000 International Culinary Olympics in Erfurt, Germany.

Simple touches can do wonders to an otherwise dull recipe. Upgrading baked chicken with an herb stuffing and a dollop of cream sauce can alter a basic entrée, for example. So can knowing when to poach, roast, braise, sauté or grill.

The emphasis on enhancing traditional menus has led some soldiers to refer to dining facility meals as “the best in town,” said SFC Ben Tesoro, who teaches advanced culinary skills to cooks

assigned to the 10 dining facilities at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Pepping up a dish can be easy, Tesoro said, and gave as an example “melon madness,” a dessert entered in the 2001 Culinary Art Competition.

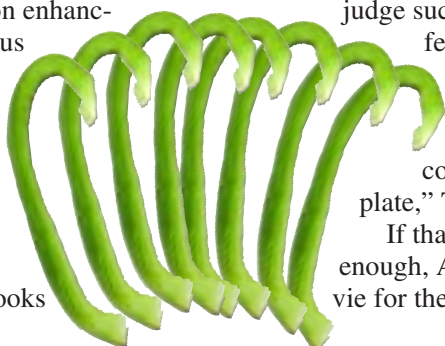
“This dessert is nothing but a mousse,” he said, “yet by adding a few enhancements — like a chocolate motif — we bumped it up a few notches.”

Tesoro encourages his cooks to let their imaginations influence the planning of daily meals. Not only do they occasionally serve fancy desserts with chocolate sauces and fruity dusting powders, they also learn to

judge success without verbal feedback.

“The smiles on patrons’ faces tells it all, but the biggest compliment is an empty plate,” Tesoro said.

If that’s not reward enough, Army cooks can also vie for the chef of the year title



in the Annual Culinary Art Competition. And the Phillip A. Connelly Program gives Army-wide facilities the chance to attain best-facility honors.

No Piece of Cake

The Army dishes out bonuses up to \$16,000 to attract food-service specialists into four-year service commitments. “A cook’s world is not easy. They’re in the kitchen at 3 or 4 o’clock in the morning,” said LTC Donald Vtipil, ACES director.

Is the dawn-to-dusk job worth the bonus? “You bet,” Haupt said. “If you take somebody from the regular Army and put them in the dining facility for about two months, they’ll be praying to go back to their own unit. We work hard every single day, without much of a break.”

Little goes unnoticed in a job that promises a hungry crowd three times a day. While customers expect quality, Vtipil expects food-service specialists to welcome patrons into their facilities with good smells and smiles alike.

“It’s a matter of making eye contact with people coming through the line, smiling and saying, ‘I hope



Special occasions give chefs the chance to show off their more artistic creations — like this marzipan wizard.

Some managers rev up lunch with fajita stations or pizza and sandwich bars.

you enjoy your meal. We'll see you again next time," he said. "Cooks have the power to turn someone's bad day into a good day through attitude alone."

Vtipil knows that soldiers occasionally slip off post for a change from the dining facility atmosphere.

"But are we threatened by McDonalds? No," he said. "It's easy to attract soldiers who live in the barracks. But we're bringing in people who have transportation and who don't have to eat at the dining facility ... that's how we know we're doing something good."

Change

The image of Army dining facilities has improved since the advent of the Subsistence Prime Vendor Program six years ago. Since then, patrons have enjoyed the same brand-name items they're used to eating at home, like bottled Heinz catsup instead of the generic version once served in metal bowls at salad-bar stations.

"Cooks have even begun trying out recipes listed on the packaging. That means we're not stuck with the same french fry everywhere we go," Vtipil said. "We can expect variety — a little more spice or a slightly different flavor."

The Prime Vendor Program allows facility managers to order food direct from vendors and receive delivery within 48 hours.

But what if patrons don't want the day's roasted chicken or baked fish? Depending on the location of the

facility, food choices have grown from one or two entrées to five or six per meal. Some managers rev up lunch with fajita stations or pizza and sandwich bars.

Army Food Adviser CW5 Peter Motrynczuk said managers' flexibility and creativity is directly related to the number of soldiers who eat in their facilities. "The more soldiers who eat there, the more money managers are allowed to spend and the more options they have for buying," he said.

Overseas dining facilities have among the greatest patronage, since off-post options are often limited. The additional funds these facilities receive through good turnout enable them to treat patrons to a taste of local fare. Soldiers in Germany can occasionally try rabbit, for example, while dining facilities in Hawaii



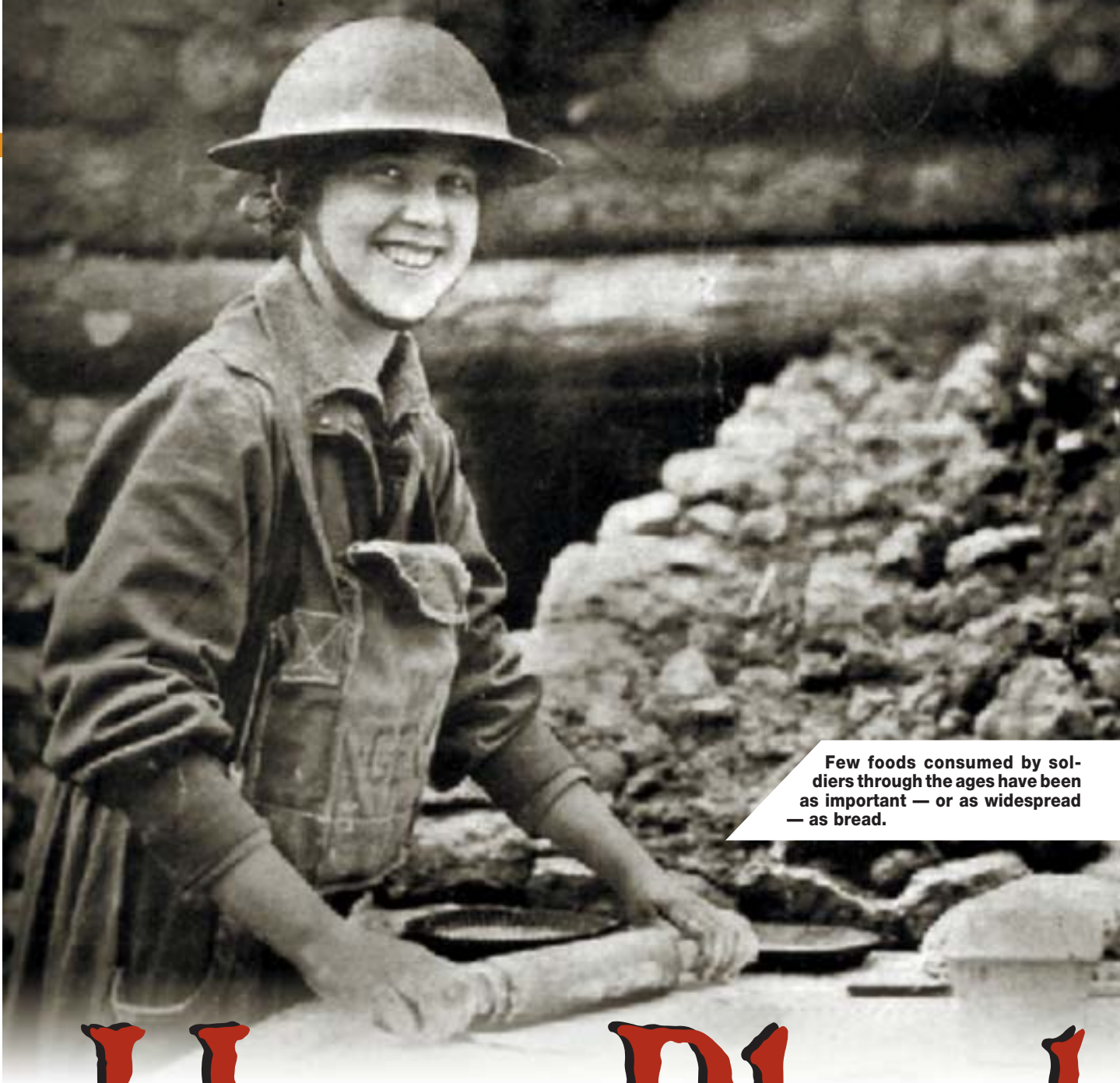
Among the many skills soldier-chefs learn are dozens of ways to quickly and efficiently chop different kinds of foods. The key is holding the knife properly, which produces the perfect cut and protects the fingers.

sometimes serve poi, a paste made by pounding cooked taro root.

"Depending on where soldiers are from or what they ate growing up, we give them a taste of things they've never had before," said SSG Amanda Jolley of the Hunter Army Airfield Dining Facility in Savannah, Ga. "I think that helps make soldiers well-rounded individuals. We broaden their experiences."

Patrons at Jolley's facility sometimes get fooled into liking a dish they once avoided. And no matter what's on the menu, most still request time-honored favorites, especially Italian cuisine.

"The lasagna goes so fast I can't keep it in the pan," she said. "They keep coming back for more." □



Few foods consumed by soldiers through the ages have been as important — or as widespread — as bread.

From Horse Blood To Hot Pockets



Story by Heike Hasenauer

U.S. Army Rations

salted fish



rice



beans



The development of rations to feed the military is a story with some very colorful twists and turns. . .

MILITARY rations have improved greatly since the time when Genghis Khan issued a “survival ration” to his troops — a straw they could use to drink their horses’ blood when other rations were scarce.

“The development of rations to feed the military is a story with some very colorful twists and turns,” said Gerald Darsch, joint project director, Department of Defense Combat Feeding Program at the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Systems Center in

Natick, Mass.

Over the years, the Army has improved not only the means of getting food to its troops, but the quality of the food as well.

In 1775, during GEN George Washington’s fight to secure and maintain freedom, a soldier’s diet was of little importance to his superiors, Darsch said.

But 1775 did mark a step forward: the Second Continental Congress established a standard ration for soldiers. It included 1 pound of beef, or 3/4 pound of pork, or 1 pound of salted fish per week; 1 pound of bread or flour per week; 3 pints of peas or

bread



The standard soldier ration established in 1775 included salt fish, rice, beans and bread, though the quality of the food varied considerably.

beans per week; 1 pint of milk per day; 1/2 pint of rice or 1 pint of Indian meal per week; and 1 quart of spruce beer or cider per day.

“Actually, the first hundred years of our nation’s history are full of stories about how more soldiers died from disease than bullets,” said CW3 Stephen Moody, who was assigned to the SSC before deploying to the Persian Gulf earlier this year.

In the late 1700s, as the government of the United States was taking shape, “mechanisms were established for the purchase and distribution of food,” Moody said.

The Army required

At the other end of the ration food chain, so to speak, is the soon-to-be-introduced pocket sandwich.

Kathy-Lynn Evangelos, executive assistant to the joint project director, DOD Combat Feeding Program, contributed to this article.





Soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment enjoy a hot meal after all-day maneuvers near Salinas, Puerto Rico, in 1941.

that the animals it purchased for food be branded, and that food containers destined for the military be marked, Moody added.

New York meat supplier Samuel Wilson stamped "US" on his crates of meat, said Moody. And legend has it that because he was so congenial and popular with the troops, he became affectionately known as "Uncle Sam."

After the War of 1812, soldiers planted gardens at their posts to more readily provide for themselves. Fresh vegetables supplanted some of the bread and beans of their earlier diets, Darsch said.

Significant changes to the Army's food-supply system occurred during the Civil War, with the limited introduction of canned foods and the beginning of ration classification, Moody added.

But the quality of canned foods was questionable, wrote Paul Steiner

in his book "Disease in the Civil War." Most men didn't receive canned foods. And diarrhea and dysentery in the Federal Army between 1861 and 1866 accounted for nearly 45,000 deaths.

Another shortfall was in the quality of the "camp" or "garrison" ration,

versus the "marching" ration.

The former consisted of everything from pork and beef, bread, beans, potatoes and rice to molasses, and included seasonings, soap and candles. Vegetables and dried fruits were also sometimes added, said Philip Stern in his book "Soldier Life in the Union and Confederate Armies." The Marching Ration was limited to pork, beef, sugar, coffee and salt.

Civil War physicians recognized that rations high in meat and salt and low in vegetables were causing night blindness and scurvy, according to a 1947 Quartermaster Corps report. But fresh vegetables were too heavy to transport easily. So, something called "desiccated vegetables" was tested on the troops.

Known as "desecrated vegetables" by the cooks, it was a mixture of various dried vegetables pressed into hard clumps that softened when boiled.



The 1980s saw the emergence of tray rations, or T-rats, which included a variety of newer and more palatable foods. These rations also included such convenience items as Tabasco sauce.

U.S. Army Rations

A member of the 3rd Iowa Cavalry Regiment wrote: "We've boiled, baked, fried, stewed, pickled, sweetened, salted and tried it in puddings, cakes and pies; but it sets all modes of cooking in defiance, so the boys break it up and smoke it in their pipes."

When Napoleon announced a prize of 12,000 francs for a method of preserving food for his armies, Nicolas Appert presented his method of food preservation by eliminating air trapped within the food and then heating it in a sealed container, Moody said. Fifty years later, Louis Pasteur theorized that controlling the growth of microorganisms would preserve food.

"But it wasn't until 1895 that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology developed the first scheduled food-preservation process and formally documented the steps necessary to ensure commercial sterility," Moody said.

Not until the late 1800s were U.S. military cooks formally trained, and it wasn't until 1902 that the Army established the first school for baking and cooking, at Fort Riley, Kan.

The Subsistence Department of the Office of the Quartermaster General was established in 1918, a year after the United States entered World War I. Subsequently, nutritional survey parties were organized and sent to teach cooks about nutrition, and how to inspect food. It was the first time hot meals were served to U.S. troops on the front lines, Darsch said.

Soon after, the "Trench Ration" evolved to provide soldiers the most popular ration items of the time: tobacco and a half pound of candy issued every 10 days, said Darsch.

World War II advances in food technology, and the response from industry and academia to the Army's needs, resulted in more than 23 different rations and ration supplements, Darsch added. The "C Ration," or "Ration, Combat, Individual," was developed. Weighing seven pounds, it offered soldiers 11 meal options, five of which contained beans.

But the "K Ration" was the most



C-rations were probably the most common type of food served to soldiers in the field during World War II.

famous of the World War II-era rations, Darsch said. Originally designed to fit in paratroopers' pockets, the two-and-a-half pound meal was the most nutritionally balanced of the rations available at the time. Soldiers were supposed to depend on the K-Ration for only up to three days. The fact that they actually ate it for weeks on end caused some digestive-tract problems, he said.

The "D Ration," or "D Bar," was the first survival ration of World War II. It contained three 4-ounce bars of thick, high-calorie chocolate. COL Paul Logan developed the bar with the intent that it not taste too good, for fear the men would consume it rather than carry it until an emergency arose, Darsch said.

World War II also saw development of group rations for specific operational requirements, including jungle and mountain operations. "Near



World War II advances in food technology, and the response from industry and academia to the Army's needs, resulted in more than 23 different rations and ration supplements.

U.S. Army Rations

the end of the war, the idea of assembling 100-man units of food evolved into what's known today as the 'B-Ration,' still used as a group meal," Darsch said.

Shelf-stable canned fruits, cakes and bread were added to the C Ration during the Korean War. And pre-cooked frozen meals, the forerunners of TV dinners, accompanied crews on large, long-range aircraft, Darsch said.

In 1958 "Meal, Combat, Individual," or MCI, replaced the C-Ration. It was a 2.7-pound, 1,200-calorie individual meal, rather than an entire ration, Darsch said.

Flexible packaging and freeze-drying were incorporated into the



In addition to food, World War II K-rations provided cigarettes — which remained a feature of Army rations into the 1980s.

Long-Range Patrol Ration, a large-portion meal used throughout the Vietnam War. It included chicken stew and scalloped potatoes with pork.

In 1963 the U.S. Army Natick Laboratories (now the Soldier Systems

Center) worked with NASA to develop meals for crews of the early space programs, Darsch said.

"Programs that originated in 1960 to produce compressed, dehydrated foods, semisolid foods in collapsible aluminum tubes and irradiated foods continue today," Darsch said.

A notable addition to the food market in the 1960s and 1970s was hermetically sealed flexible packaging, known as the retort pouch. "This system probably represents the greatest scientific and engineering breakthrough in food packaging and processing," Darsch said. At that time,



Boxed rations have always been a field staple, as they were for these 347th Inf. Regt. soldiers in Belgium in January 1945.



Marilyn Noakes

Today's soldiers can usually expect hot food under most field conditions, though meals are far less elaborate under combat conditions.

Natick and the American food manufacturing industry were tasked to produce a new combat ration — a lightweight, individual meal, without a metal container.

What was to become the famous “Meal, Ready-to-Eat,” MRE, went into production in 1980. Field tests of the MRE led to changes from freeze-dried entrees, starches and fruits to wet-pack items, and the addition of commercial entrees, candies, hot sauce and freeze-dried coffee.

Today, the MRE comes in 24 varieties, but the little bottle of Tabasco sauce soldiers use to flavor the food remains one of the most popular items, Darsch said.

Probably less well-known is that period’s introduction of a dental liquid ration requested by officials at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., for patients whose jaws were wired shut, Darsch said.

The first dental liquids were created by pulverizing freeze-dried meats and reconstituting them as beverages.

In more recent history, in response to Operation Desert Shield in the Persian Gulf, industry developed the Desert

Bar that soldiers called “the chocolate bar that melts in your mouth, not in the sand.” The Army

also introduced Shelf-Stable Pouch Bread.

The latter evolved into the soon-to-be-introduced shelf-stable, deli-like “pocket sandwich.”



The newest version of the MRE includes such entrees as beefsteak grilled with mushrooms — a notable improvement over some of the earlier MREs.

Army rations have continued to change over the years, based on both technological advancements and the Army’s needs. Methods of food storage, shipment and preparation have also improved, Darsch said.

Time-Temperature Indicators, which darken over time to indicate when MRE cases are nearing expiration dates, and the Flameless Ration Heater, which allows soldiers to heat rations in the field, are only two of many food-related improvements.

“Today, the job of DOD’s subsistence community is as challenging as ever,” Darsch said, “because the high-tech weapons of the digitized battlefield are only as good as the soldiers who operate them. And food is what keeps the Army running.” □



Sarah Underhill

While not exactly a five-star meal, MREs offer nutritious and appetizing food suited to the rigors of life in the field.

Today, the MRE comes in 24 varieties, but the little bottle of Tabasco sauce soldiers use to flavor the food remains one of the most popular items.



One Tough Track

Story and Photos by SSG Alberto Betancourt

THE U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command's National Automotive Center and the U.S. Marine Corps Systems Command have joined forces in the creation of a track to demonstrate the capabilities of future vehicles.

"The Severe Off-Road Track will allow decision-makers a first-hand look at the capabilities of various vehicles the Army and the Marines are considering for a more formal acquisition program," said TACOM public affairs officer Eric Emerton.

(Left) A Dodge Ram tackles a downhill, dirt portion of the SORT. The Ram is being considered as a multi-role logistics vehicle under the Commercially Based Tactical Truck, or COMBATT, program.

(Right) The Ram takes on the SORT's 125-foot uphill rock climb.





The Marine Corps Systems Command's Interim Fast Attack Vehicle prototype maneuvers through the SORT's six-foot-deep "V" crossing.

He said the two-mile SORT is a permanent demonstration and evaluation course that can be used by the services and industry to exhibit vehicles and vehicle technologies that show potential for military applications.

Located in the Transportation Demonstra-

tion Support Area at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., the oval track features numerous challenges designed to approximate the terrain a vehicle might encounter in a military environment, a border-patrol assignment or a homeland-defense mission.

With the severity of the obstacles ranging from a 125-foot uphill rock climb to a log climb, the SORT

gives evaluators an opportunity to get a quick, informal assessment of real-world, off-road vehicle performance.

Paul Skalny, NAC's deputy director, said Congress continuously asks how his agency is investing and how it leverages off other services and industry.

Skalny described the venture as a "win-win partnership" where each service splits the resources down the middle.

"We're in business to work with industry and accelerate the infusion of commercially viable technology," he said. "That's the technology that industry is putting out into the mass marketplace and we want to bring it into our military land-warfare system." □

The SORT's log climb assesses a vehicle's suspension, ground clearance and overall chassis balance.





A Blue Green Christmas

Story and Photos by SFC Brenda Benner

EVERY year at this time, camouflage-clad soldiers and airmen from the Texas Army and Air National Guard help the Austin Police Department bring holiday cheer to families in need.

“Operation Blue Santa” provides Christmas dinners and gifts for families needing help during the holidays. And although the name refers to police blue, from the beginning the program has been supported by Army green.

Margarine Beaman, a Blue Santa board member and longtime volunteer, said the yearly event is vibrant and growing, and that’s a good thing considering the increasing needs of families in the Austin area.

“We’re lucky to have volunteers from throughout the community,” Beaman said. “Without the Texas National Guard, this could never happen. They take care of our building repairs, pick up the donations, and are especially vital to our huge delivery day. Last year, thanks to their efforts, we accomplished 3,640 deliveries.”

When delivery day comes again this year, it will once again resemble a military deployment as rows and rows

of camouflaged trucks and Humvees convoy out from Blue Santa headquarters. The military delivery force is necessary because most police cars, fire trucks and their crews must be ready to answer emergencies.

In some cases, the Blue Santa program is the only gift-giving aspect of Christmas families living at the poverty level will have, said SGT Orvin Lee, of Company A, 449th Aviation Support Battalion, who’s been helping to deliver that Christmas for several years. He does it for the joy he experiences when helping others, he said, and many other soldiers in his unit are hooked on the program and show up in full force every year.

The roar of the diesel engine from Lee’s truck is enough to excite children half a block away. Some of them run from house to house, hoping to get a peek at what Blue Santa has in store for them when his huge Army “sleigh” arrives at their front door.

From the first delivery to the last, the children’s responses are the only proof soldiers need to know their efforts are appreciated, Lee said.

SFC Linda Varda, a combat medic and Emergency Medical Technician instructor, is a 12-year volunteer. She

(Top left) Operation Blue Santa provides holiday gifts to many children who might not otherwise receive any.

(Top right) SGT Orvin Lee treats a child to the view from his 2 1/2 ton Army “sleigh.”

(Above) SGT Meva Brandon loads his truck for a second round of deliveries.

said that the reactions she receives range from open-armed greetings from eager children to tears of gratitude from their thankful parents.

Varda said she still enjoys making the deliveries as much as she did the very first year she volunteered.

“Every time I do this, it reminds me that at some time in our lives, almost everybody needs a little help,” she said. “This is a way for me to share some of the good fortune and blessings I’ve received when I’ve needed help.”

Volunteers from various organizations including the National Guard have to work throughout the year to make Blue Santa the success that it is.

“We have a core group of members involved year-round to make the program a success,” said Texas Adjutant General Daniel James. “Add our donation sorting, wrapping, and delivery forces, and you see we are an organization that demonstrates a full commitment to Blue Santa, a commitment to support our community.” □

SFC Brenda Benner works for the Texas Army Guard’s 100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.



LEAPFEST!

2002

**Story and Photos
by MSG Bob Haskell**

JUST as balloonists know about the annual international hot-air balloon event in Albuquerque, N.M., so do military paratroopers know where they can find one of the best outlets to showcase their skills.

It's called Leapfest — an abbreviated title for the International Military Parachute Competition that takes place every August, through the sponsorship of the Rhode Island Army National Guard.

"A lot of German airborne soldiers want to come here," said Capt. Andreas Von Weihe of the German army's 31st Airborne Brigade. He participated in the recent Leapfest, the 20th anniversary of the event in West Kingston, R.I.

Forty-two teams competed, among them 15 foreign teams, the largest international contingent in Leapfest history.

Other teams came from South Africa, Tunisia, Ecuador, Thailand and El Salvador. The United Kingdom sent

two teams from its reserve Territorial Army. Three Canadian teams jumped. And Poland and Jordan participated for the first time.

This was Canada's year. One of the two teams from the Quebec-based Parachute Company, 3rd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment, took home the team championship, Canada's first. And the team's Cpl. J.P.A.M. Dufour became the individual champion.

Army National Guard teams from Georgia's 121st Infantry and Maryland's 20th Special Forces Group finished second and third.

SFC Charles Skipper from the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C., finished second, and Kentucky Army Guard LTC Wayne Burd took third. They were among the 168 parachutists who jumped from the back ramps of four Pennsylvania Army Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

"Watching the jumpers took me back to my days in jump school at Fort Benning, Ga., in 1964," said Rhode Island resident and Navy veteran Dan Thompson, who observed the 500 jumps. "Watching them float down reminded me of how much I liked it."

The floating is the easy part for the competitive airborne troopers.

Each four-member team jumps three times from 1,500 feet with static lines that pull the chutes open. The parachutists land as close as they can to a large orange X in the middle of a manicured, 218-acre drop zone.

The jumpers are timed from the

(Above left) Two parachutists had a close encounter in the drop zone but separated and landed safely.

(Left) A paratrooper from Jordan signals his confidence in his equipment and the teammate who is checking him out.

MSG Bob Haskell works for the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office in Arlington, Va.



Soldiers



Two American paratroopers reach the target, a large X in the middle of a 218-acre drop zone.

moment they touch the ground until they touch the X. The individuals and teams with the lowest total times win.

Working the wind and maneuvering the chutes to land close to the target are keys to success.

"The wind can be a real problem, especially if you land down wind from the target and have to drag your chute back to it," said chief judge SFC Bob Perry, who has jumped in or worked on all 20 Leapfests.

The top team's name is inscribed on the Rhode Island Adjutant General's International Parachute Trophy.

The international team members are pinned with U.S. paratrooper wings. That courtesy is common within the international airborne culture. Perry, for example, earned Thai "balloon wings" during his special forces days by parachuting from a dirigible that was tethered at 800 feet.

The bonding that the paratroopers from the different lands experience during the week or two they are together in Rhode Island is considered

as important as the competition.

"The big thing is the camaraderie," said Maj. Johan Joubert, an army reservist from South Africa. "It was interesting to meet the people from the South American countries. There's no other way we could have met them."

The four members of the South African team, all reservists, paid their own airfare, added Joubert, a civil engineer. That's how much they like Leapfest.

The Rhode Island hospitality includes a trip to nearby Boston for a Red Sox game and the chance to buy jeans at local outlet stores for considerably less money than they cost in Europe.

Whatever pressure the parachutists

feel is self-imposed.

"This competition is one of the few times these paratroopers can have a good time without being pushed to set up a defensive perimeter in the woods after they've jumped," Perry said. "It's a fun situation."

Royal Thailand Air Force Lt. Phiphukdee Vinit agreed.

"This is the first time I have had this kind of competition in my life. It's the same for my team," said the 17-year military veteran, who's been parachuting for a decade. "This Leapfest is a very excellent experience." □

Floating is the easy part...

Sharp Shooters

Photos by SPC James D. Wyllie

The Defense Information School's Intermediate Photojournalism Course provides journalists and photographers — both military and civilian — with the specialized skills necessary to support public-affairs and visual-information missions.

The eight-week course emphasizes the relationship between writing and photography, and includes instruction in news and feature writing; layout and design; basic and advanced photographic techniques and production; electronic imaging; desktop publishing; digital cameras; image transmission and archiving.

SPC James D. Wyllie, a recent course graduate currently serving with the 20th Public Affairs Detachment at Fort Richardson, Alaska, showcases some of the photographic skills he learned during the course.

For more information on IPC go to www.dinfos.osd.mil



Tyler Williams moves the ball up field during a soccer match at Fort George G. Meade, Md.

(Left) A macro lens provides an extreme close-up view of a flower.

(Right) Peter Hall urges his frog, Geronimo, to leap farther during Baltimore's 14th Annual Preakness Frog Hop.

(Below) Cadet Joshua Benson guides a plank through a dark tunnel during the Leadership Reaction Course's "platform-crossing" obstacle.



Standard photo submissions for Soldiers Sharp Shooters can be mailed to Photo Editor, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Suite S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581. Photo submissions of digital images should be directed to alberto.betancourt@belvoir.army.mil. All submissions must include an introductory paragraph and captions.

Sharp Shooters



A rescue worker reacts to injuries at the Pentagon during a simulated mass-casualty exercise.



Volunteer CeCe Wilson writes an inspirational message for fellow walkers during the annual Baltimore-to-Washington Breast Cancer Walk.



A trainer works with a horse the day before the Preakness Stakes at Baltimore's Pimlico Race Course.



High school lacrosse players mix it up during a game outside Baltimore.

Fort Lee, Va.

SRT Tackles Life-Threatening Situations

WHEN crime puts someone's life at stake at Fort Lee, Va., the commander calls the Special Reaction Team.

The installation's 10-member team trains diligently to prepare for such life-threatening situations as hostage seizures, terrorism operations or barricaded suspects.

"We train with these scenarios to see how well our team responds and to ensure they are prepared for a real-life case," said

SSG Arthur Rich, NCOIC for the SRT.

"We also see how well we interact with the Criminal Investigations Department people, who would be the hostage negotiators."

Team members recently conducted an exercise in which they assaulted an armed individual who was threatening to kill his family.

The SRT members are regular military-police soldiers who volunteer to become part of the anonymous force.

The selection process involves days of training and testing, and includes an APFT, swim test, rucksack march, obstacle course, land navigation tasks, marksmanship proficiency tests, a written test and an oral presentation before the selection board.

"Being on the SRT is mentally challenging because of the difficult decisions we have to make when preparing for an assault," said one SRT member.

"We have to think about whether we're going to shoot a suspect. We have to coordinate a way to disarm the suspect and take control of the situation. We must communicate with one another to successfully execute the mission."

The entire team agreed that it's exciting to be part of a group that does something extraordinary and at the same time helps rescue people from dangerous situations.

— SPC Jorge Gomez, Fort Lee Public Affairs Office



Ellen A. Hart



Soldiers of Headquarters and HQs. Company, 3rd COS-COM, at work on the playing field of the Advena/Bärenherz Hospiz just outside Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Wiesbaden, Germany

COSCOM Soldiers Work For Good Cause

RAKES, shovels and wheelbarrows were the weapons of the day for about 20 soldiers from Germany's 3rd Corps Support Command, who assisted the staff and residents of Erbenheim's Advena/Bärenherz Hospiz just outside Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

In lieu of sergeant's time training, the soldiers volunteered to level an area of ground for seeding and planting of flowers around new playground equipment donated to the hospice by a benefactor in Leipzig, Germany.

"This was a consolidated effort by the platoon ser-

geants and their soldiers to volunteer for a good cause,” said SFC Alexie Rogers, who organized the work detail. The project was initiated by a contact in the German-American Friends Club in Wiesbaden.

The Bärenherz, which opened in April and means “Heart of a Teddy Bear,” takes in severely sick, handicapped or terminally ill children. Advena accepts terminally ill adults, and a third organization, Wohnen im Alter (Living in Old Age), provides independence for senior citizens and handicapped adults to rent apartments in the hospice complex.

“We have a mixture of people,” said Monika Stark-Mitchell, Wohnen im Alter’s manager. “I have 35 tenants between the ages of 24 to 93 in my area. Right now we have four sick children in the Bärenherz.”

The children were the motivation for the soldiers to get their hands and boots dirty.

“I’ve been blessed to be in the condition I am in, so I thought it would be good to help those less fortunate,” said SSG Neil Chambers, HHC, 3rd COSCOM.

Fueled by coffee, orange juice, brötchen, cold cuts, bratwurst and schwenk steaks, the soldiers worked through the day until rain eventually halted their efforts.

“Everyone had their different reasons for helping here,” Rogers said. “We are truly blessed. This was one way to give back.” — *Ellen A. Hart, 3rd COSCOM PAO*

Arlington, Va.

Guard Enters “Pedal to the Metal” World

THE 350,000-member Army National Guard is a diverse force that has repeatedly and speedily deployed soldiers to places like Bosnia and Afghanistan, and it flies helicopters and drives 60-ton Abrams tanks across terrible terrain.

Now the Guard is venturing into the “pedal to the metal” world of NASCAR stock-car racing, promoting its benefits and awareness before one of America’s largest sporting audiences. With red “NATIONAL GUARD” lettering adorning its hood, car No. 54 — an 800-horsepower Chevrolet Monte Carlo — roared into NASCAR’s Winston Cup Series in mid-October.

This is the National Guard’s Year of Diversity, and the National Guard will be the primary advertiser for a new high-speed team that also intends to bring diversity to America’s premier racing enterprise that nearly 90 million people watch in person and on national television from February through November.

BH Motorsports, the team formed by African Americans Sam Belnavis and Tinsley Hughes, began racing the “Guard Car” at Lowe’s Motor Speedway near Charlotte, N.C., on Oct. 13.

The new team plans to compete in three Winston Cup events during the rest of this season before running in the entire 2003 series beginning in February at Daytona Beach, Fla.

“This is a significant partnership,” said LTG Roger Schultz, director for the Army National Guard.

He said this venture was also about the NASCAR fans.

“They’re very loyal and very dedicated,” Schultz said.

National Guard officials also like the marketing statistics that add to NASCAR’s appeal, as this country’s most popular and fastest growing spectator sport. Nearly one third of the fans are between the recruitable ages of 18-34.

Veteran driver Ron Hornaday, a two-time champion in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series, has been piloting the “Guard Car.”

“I’m excited to be part of the National Guard,” said Hornaday, who has won 17 Winston West Series races. “I enjoy and respect all the National Guard soldiers around my car.” — *MSG Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau PAO*



LTG Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard, beams from behind the wheel of the NASCAR racer carrying the Guard’s logo.

Early Termination

Responsibility
SSCRA



The Lease You Should Do

MOST members of the military family, if they even know of the federal law commonly known as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, mistakenly think this legislation provides a defense or immunity from legal action if they choose to terminate or break a lease contract. Similarly, landlords often misunderstand its provisions, resulting in their making legal claims for which the soldier may not be held responsible.

Know the Law

The civil relief act is a large body of law that originated in 1940 to protect people coming into the military service or already serving on active duty. One provision of the law sought to protect the wartime enlistee or draftee by granting an option to terminate a lease early without penalty, due to call up for military service. The statute did not apply to lease agreements created after coming on active duty, or to homes leased in foreign countries.

What Does Apply?

Because the SSCRA doesn't apply to early termination of leases created after someone is on active duty, the provisions written into the lease

contract determine the rights and liability of the parties, unless a state law dictates otherwise.

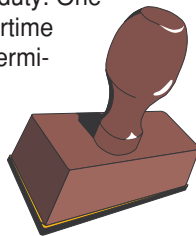
Historically, many state statutes have remained silent as to the early military termination of leases. For this reason, soldiers are repeatedly warned by commanders and judge advocates to ensure their leases contain a "military clause." Lacking this clause or a state law on the issue, the tenant is liable for the entire period of the lease, regardless of military service and transfers.

Where the Tenant is Wrong

Desperate to keep their rent payments as low as possible, many soldiers have entered into 2- and 3-year leases even when they knew they would be transferring long before the term expired. This is an act of deceit or fraud that in a court of law will defeat relief otherwise available.

Others sign a lease believing their obligation to make monthly payments ends when they vacate the property, even if they leave before the lease is terminated. In many cases, this is not so.

Tenant liability is best described by viewing a lease as the purchase of occupancy space for a specific period of time and for a specific dollar amount. When viewed that way, it means that the landlord is permitting the payment of the entire debt



FOR RENT

Steven Chucala is chief of client services in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Belvoir, Va.

to be made in monthly installments as is done when a motor vehicle is purchased. Moving out of an apartment or home does not end the debt.

The Role of State Law

Each state has its own laws that apply to lease contracts and a military tenant's rights of early termination. Virginia's Landlord Tenant Act, for example, legally creates the option for early termination if the military member is transferred beyond a 35-mile radius, is on extended temporary duty elsewhere, is discharged, dies or is ordered to live in government quarters. It does not apply to soldiers who simply choose to move into government quarters when they become available.

The laws vary from state to state, so the soldier's best course of action is to read the lease contract to ensure it clearly addresses those situations most likely to affect an early termination.

Steps to Terminate

Where a state statute or a military clause in a lease is involved, a normal 30-day written notice with copy of the PCS order is required to trigger early termination. The tenant must read the lease and comply with its provisions. State laws often provide for a fair financial settlement between the landlord and the tenant by establishing tenant monetary limits for early termination.

Seek Assistance

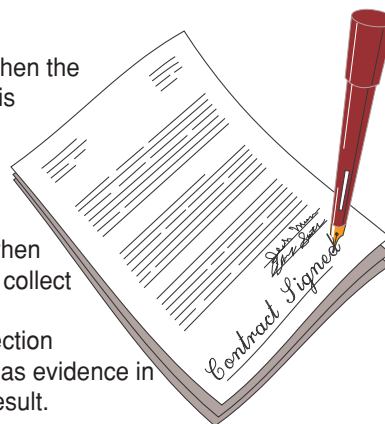
Local legal-assistance offices can provide soldiers with guidance and sample leases or military clauses for use in leases. Consultation with an attorney is especially important in overseas areas, where foreign laws and customs vary dramatically from practices in the United States.

Related Leasing Problems

Another major conflict area concerns the security deposit that is paid at the start of the lease period and is to be applied by the landlord to make repairs of damages that are beyond normal wear and tear. Tenants should insist on a walk-through inspection to have all existing deficiencies documented at the start of the occupancy, and the same kind of inspection

should be conducted when the property is vacated. This will permit an on-the-scene resolution of the matter, rather than the unpleasant arguments that can occur when the soldier later tries to collect the security deposit.

Copies of the inspection memos can also serve as evidence in case litigation should result.



If It's Written, You Won't Get Bitten

Always get a printed lease with all amendments and "clarifications" signed by both parties. Oral promises by the landlord, managers, resident engineers or agents are worthless, since their enforcement often depends on being able to prove what was agreed upon and by whom. Remember that agents will often exceed their authority by making oral promises just to "make the sale." Agents and managers are also likely to move on, leaving no record of agreements with either tenant or landlord.

We're On Your Side

If time permits, visit your legal-assistance office and have an attorney review the proposed lease before you sign it. Inappropriate provisions in a lease should be lined out and initialed by both parties on all copies. Similarly, needed items should be added and likewise initialed.

When early termination of a lease is needed, consult with an attorney to avoid many of the pitfalls being experienced by other service members. □



Focus on People

Compiled by *Heike Hasenauer*

"One is an artistic outlet, and the other is a way I can give something back to the nation."

MILITARY intelligence and the movie business may seem worlds apart, but for **2LT Monroe Mann** they're different sides of the same coin.

A member of the New York Army National Guard and a recent graduate of the Intelligence Officer Basic Course at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Mann is also a fledgling actor whose most recent film, "Swimfan," was a major summer hit.

"Sure, acting and the Army might not seem like complimentary careers," Mann said, "but they're both equally important to me. One is an artistic outlet, and the other is a way I can give something back to the nation."

A native of Port Chester, N.Y., Mann

acted in high school and briefly attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City. He went on to college in Switzerland, and after completing degrees in economics and French decided to pursue acting.

"I graduated from college in 1999, and headed back to New York," he said. "Things went well, but a few months into the process I started feeling funny about just being an actor, like something was missing. And then I saw 'Saving Private Ryan.'"

The powerful film about a group of soldiers on a hazardous World War II mission touched a nerve, Mann said, and after doing some research he decided that duty in the National Guard would allow him to both serve the nation and pursue his theatrical career.

PEOPLE who know her call her the poster girl for the Army Reserve, but 20-year-old **SPC Sandra Mercado** isn't letting the publicity go to her head.

A year after being featured in the "An Army of One" advertising campaign, the broadcast journalist with the 222nd Broadcast Operations Detachment in Bell, Calif., said the Reserve is exceeding her expectations.

The freshman at Pasadena City College has three years' Reserve duty under her belt.

"I'm very happy I made this decision. I expected a lot out of the Army, and now

the Army expects a lot from me. I like that; I like the pressure," Mercado said.

The Rosemead, Calif., high school graduate joined the Reserve in November of her senior year. She attended drill weekends, and underwent basic and advanced individual training after graduation.

A writer for her high school newspaper, Mercado said she has always been interested in journalism and knew at a young age that broadcasting would become her niche.

"I want to meet a lot of people; I want to see how others live, how we're different, but how we're alike," she said.

"I don't know if I'm lucky, but my time in the Army has so far been wonderful, and I've always had positive people around me," she said. "The Army is just like anything else: You have to make it work for you. Anything you do, whether it's the military or college, you have to make it work for you."

"I don't just want to be a poster girl," she said. "I want to gain experience, to deploy and be able to tell others when I'm in the field: 'I've been there, you can learn something from me.'"

Mercado recently returned from a six-month deployment in Kosovo with the 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, her Reserve unit's sister unit. — *Julia Bobick, U.S. Army Recruiting Command Public Affairs Office*



Mercado: USAR poster girl.



Steve Harding

Mann: Soldier and actor.

He enlisted in 2000, and after basic training and OCS elected to become a military intelligence officer.

"Good intelligence is vital to any

Army, and it's

an area in which I think my academic background can really be of value," Mann said. "And intelligence work is interesting; there's always something going on."

The same can be said of Mann's civilian career. In addition to his work in front of the camera he has written a screenplay and two books: "The Theatrical Juggernaut," a guide to the artistic and business aspects of acting as a profession, and "To Benning and Back: The Making of a Citizen Soldier." And he has also put his business training to work, having founded Unstoppable Actors, a New York-based consulting firm that deals with both the artistic and business aspects of acting.

Despite his burgeoning show-business success, Mann said his military career is equally important.

"I love everything about acting, and I think entertaining people is a wonderful service to be able to provide," Mann said. "But I also feel that I need to give something back to my country, and being a soldier really answers that need." — *Steve Harding*

SOLDIERS of the **U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit** and actor Clint Eastwood participated in a recent History Channel special broadcast about the Magnum handgun.

Viewers were urged to join the History Channel "for a review of the history of the biggest, baddest gun available today — unlimited firepower

USAMU soldiers: History Channel debut.

at the pull of a trigger!"

USAMU soldiers, filmed months earlier by a California-based production company crew that traveled to Fort Benning, Ga., appeared at the beginning and near the end of the broadcast.

Producer Tom Jennings and his crew interviewed USAMU soldiers and civilians for the show. They visited USAMU ranges to film members of the Service Rifle Team shooting the Magnum and interviewed USAMU ammunition technicians while they were producing special Magnum bullets. They also spoke with USAMU gunsmiths, who build the Magnums for the Army shooters.

"I think everything went well," said USAMU Service Rifle Coach Donnie Heuman. "The crew members were very excited about being around the guns and actually being able to film a bullet going down range; they thought that was pretty cool."

"I found it fascinating to be standing under the targets while the shooters were 'punching' holes in them from 600 yards," said Jennings. "That's not an everyday experience for a civilian."

Formed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army, the AMU has been a part of the U. S. Army Recruiting Command since October 1999. — *Paula J. Randall-Pagán, USAMU PAO*

USAMU soldiers appeared at the beginning and near the end of the broadcast.



Around the Services

Compiled by *SSG Alberto Betancourt*
from service reports



Air Force

Elite teams from NAS-CAR and the Air Force faced off on Delaware's Dover Air Force Base flightline in a competition called "reverse pit stop." The three-hour event demonstrated the many similarities and contrasts between the two organizations, while allowing each team to experience something of the other's maintenance challenges.



William Plate Jr.



Marines

Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, both in California, teamed up once again with Fox television for "Celebrity Boot Camp." This reality show turns celebrities into Marine Corps recruits and lets them undergo the mental and physical tests of endurance and strength it takes to become a marine.



Ray Mickshaw



Navy

The Navy randomly selected approximately 10,000 sailors to give their opinions on re-enlistment and the quality of naval service. The chosen were primarily first-termers who had the chance to convey their concerns and desires on such issues as pay, the assignment procedure and how time is spent during the workweek.



SOLDIERS

Index to Volume 57

Jan-Dec 2002

Page numbers are indicated immediately following the month of issue. Library of Congress Call Number: U1.A827.

Title and Subject Index

2002 Almanac (January)

Year in Review, 2
Facts and Figures: *Situation Report*, 8; *Major Commands*, 12; *Army Web Sites*, 14; *Post Information*, 16; *Brigade Combat Team*, 23; *Uniform Update*, 24; *Army Force Structure*, 26; *Army Careers*, 27; *Major Equipment*, 28.
This Is Our Army, 36.
Special Inserts: *Uniforms, Badges and Ribbons*; *Major Army Units*; *Chain of Command*.

Posters and Pullouts

Guide to Writing and Shooting for Soldiers Magazine, Feb.
2002 Pay Charts, Feb 24.
West Point at 200, Mar.
Using the Montgomery GI Bill, Mar 24.
Army Earth Day 2002, Apr.
National Flag Day, Jun.
U.S. Army National Guard—We the People, Jul.
Army of One posters, Sep. & Dec.

Hot Topics Pullouts

After the Army, Feb.
Force Protection, May
Online Army, Aug.
Degrees on the Go, Nov.

Legal Forum

Soldiers and the Gun-Control Act, Mar 42;
Get Off the Debt Wagon, May 38; *Making a Better Move*, Oct 18; *The Lease You Should Do*, Dec 42.

West Point Athletes (Back Covers)

Mike Mayweather, Feb.
Omar Bradley, Mar.
Rebecca Marier, Apr.
Carl Robert Arvin, May.
Kim Hall, Jun.
Andy Lundholm, Jul.
William S. Carpenter Jr., Aug.
Diana Willis, Oct.
Robert F. Foley, Nov.
Felix A. Blanchard, *Glenn W. Davis* and *Peter M. Dawkins*, Dec.

Cover 3

Corps Bridge Saves Lives, Feb.
The Old Guard, Mar.
Twilight Tattoo, Apr.
Corps Road Modernization, May.
Army Birthday Message, Jun.
Independence Day Message, Jul.
Disaster Recovery, Aug.
WACs and the Bomb, Oct.
Thanksgiving 2002 Message, Nov.

Army on Film

Black Hawk Down, Feb 40; We go behind the scenes to look at the Army's role in making the blockbuster film.
We Were Soldiers, Mar 26; A stirring new film starring Mel Gibson tells the heroic story of the soldiers who fought the first large-scale action of the Vietnam War.

Army Transformation

U.S. Northern Command Debuts in October, Jul 24; A new command will bolster the nation's homeland-defense efforts.
AMC — Paving the Way to the Army's Future, Oct 24; GEN Paul J. Kern of the U.S. Army Materiel Command talks about AMC's goals, it's participation in the war on terror, and its ongoing development of advanced equipment and technologies.

Career News and Issues

Prepping for the Point, Mar 10; For many active-duty and reserve-component soldiers, the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School is the first step toward attend-

ing West Point.

Cashing in on the GI Bill, Mar 22; Here's what you need to know about the education benefits your military service has earned you.

Summer School for Officers, Apr 30; A former cavalry post in North Dakota is home to an innovative Officer Candidate School.

Updating the OER System, Nov 14; An eight-month review of the officer evaluation system has prompted some key changes.

Community Support

Art From the Heart, Mar 20; The Pentagon is now home to thousands of artworks created by America's children to honor the nation and its martyrs.

The Army Game, Aug 22; "America's Army: The Official U.S. Army Game" is headed to a computer near you.

Ecybermission, Oct 17; A new Web-based competition for students is looking for volunteers to help make the program a success.

Tomorrow's Classroom, Nov 32; A National Guard Bureau-NASA partnership is delivering science and space education programs to students nationwide.

Competitions

The Culinary Masters, Jun 4; Food was in the spotlight when the best chefs cooked up a storm at the 27th Annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, Va.

Search and Rescue Challenge, Aug 12; A recent exercise tested the skills of the Military District of Washington's Engineer Company.

Best Rangers 2002, Aug 28; Out of 47 competing teams, one emerged as champion in this year's grueling 60-hour event.

Leapfest 2002, Dec 34; Military parachutists from around the world gather to compete in the annual event hosted by the Rhode Island Army National Guard.

Duty/Life

Duty in Greece, Apr 14; U.S. soldiers assigned to NATO's Joint Sub-Regional Command, South Central, in Larissa, Greece, are a vital part of a new and increasingly important international headquarters.

Kwajalein: More Than Rocket Science, Jul 28; Life is never dull for the soldiers and civilians living and working on Kwajalein Atoll, site of the United States' premier missile test range.

Island Life, Jul 34; Ask Kwajalein's residents for the one word that best sums up daily life on the remote atoll, and the most common response is "unique."

The Soldier Perspective, Jul 36; Some of the 22 soldiers assigned to U.S. Army Kwajalein give their take on island life.

By Air and by Sea, Jul 39; The size of Kwajalein Atoll's lagoon and the distance between its islands make for some significant logistical challenges.

Island Focus, Nov 30; It's strategic location, within shipping distance of several of the world's hot spots, is one of Diego Garcia's best features.

Special Assignment: Soto Cano, Nov 34; Soldiers at this little-known base in Honduras handle an assortment of important missions.

Family and Quality-of-Life Issues

ARC on the Move, Apr 44; Deployment is a part of the job for members of the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Service mobile staff.

Keeping Families Informed, Apr 46; The American Red Cross is an official messenger, keeping soldiers informed of births, deaths and other important family matters at home.

Know Them Before You Need Them, Apr 46; Local Red Cross chapters are a wealth of assistance and information for active-duty, reserve-component and retired military members.

Helping the Stork, May 22; Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's Stork Nest Program offers expectant mothers a broad range of specialized services.

Reaching Out to the Bereaved, Jun 18; When a soldier dies, notifying loved ones and helping them through the immediate aftermath of their loss calls for a special kind of caring.

Serving God and Country, Dec 4; Army chaplains train to undertake duties both military and spiritual.

Fitness and Sports

Utah Gold, Feb 15; Soldier-athletes stand a good chance of winning the top prizes in a variety of sports at this month's Winter Olympics.

Guard and Reserve

National Guard Update, Jul 16; As the nation prepares to celebrate Independence Day, Guard soldiers continue to serve the nation at home and abroad.

The Reserve's Continuing Commitment, Jul 20; Army Reservists are also continuing to support ongoing operations around the globe.

On the Border, Aug 40; National Guard soldiers continue to aid in securing the nation's northern and southern borders against all threats.

Fighting the Wildfire Wars, Oct 20; "Homeland defense" took on a new meaning for the soldiers who spent the summer battling one of the nation's oldest enemies.

The Blue-Green Christmas, Dec 33; Texas Army and Air National Guard members join forces with the Austin Police Department to bring holiday cheer to families in need.

History and Traditions

Understanding Islam, Feb 33; Islam is a religion that has many of the same values as conservative Christianity. It places a great deal of emphasis on personal piety, and on personal and public morality.

West Point at 200, Mar 4; For two centuries the U.S. Military Academy has turned young Americans into leaders of the Army and the nation.

America's Lasting Monument, Mar 18; Built during the dark days of World War II, the Pentagon has long been the center of the nation's military might.

More Than a Patch, May 14; Unit patches are a symbol of pride for those who wear them, and creating the distinctive insignia is part art and part history.

Memories of "BK", May 18; Last summer's departure of the last American soldiers from Bad Kreuznach, Germany, did not dim the mutual friendships forged over five decades.

Marking the Distance Home, May 40; Common since Roman times, mile markers have always pointed the way home for deployed service members.

A Tank to Remember, May 42; A vintage M3A1 tank found in Haiti will soon take its place among other valued relics at the 1st Armored Division Museum.

United by Old Glory, Jun 22; In the aftermath of Sept. 11, the nation found unity, healing, determination and strength in our

star-spangled banner.

A Jump to Celebrate, Jun 27; Female paratroopers filled the skies over Fort Bragg in a salute to Women's History Month.

The Return of the Service Flag, Jul 46; A nearly forgotten tradition that honors military personnel in times of war and conflict is making a comeback all over the country.

A Twilight Stroll Through Army History, Aug 20; Every Wednesday through the summer, the Army's history unfolds in music and pageantry in the shadow of the White House.

The Dawn of the Modern Army, Oct 44; Soldiers talks with author Rick Atkinson about his new three-volume history of the Army's battle against Nazi Germany.

Personalizing the Past, Nov 16; The Veterans History Project is helping ensure that important personal stories are not lost.

Fort McHenry: Birthplace of America's National Anthem, Nov 22; A key event in America's history comes alive for visitors to the fort on Baltimore Harbor.

From Horse Blood to Hot Pockets, Dec 24; Military rations have changed tremendously — and for the better — over the centuries.

Missions

National Maintenance Training Center, Feb 18; A unique facility in Iowa's farm country turns out a bumper crop of skilled Army mechanics and maintenance units.

West Point's Other Soldiers, Mar 11; Enlisted soldiers and NCOs play a vital role in shaping the Army officers produced by West Point, while also providing vital support and training.

Air-Land Ambulance, Mar 44; The soldiers of the Germany-based 421st Medical Battalion have raised air and ground evacuation to an art form.

Forward Eyes and Ears, Apr 40; In these uncertain times the skills of long-range reconnaissance units take on a new importance.

Dealing with Death, May 44; Across the Army, specially trained mortuary-affairs soldiers, most of them Reservists, deal with death when tragedy strikes.

The Difference Between Life and Death, Jun 28; For explosive-ordnance technicians, making quick and correct decisions is a matter of survival.

WHINSEC: Strengthening International Ties, Jun 34; At Fort Benning, Spanish-speaking officers are learning the fine points of humanitarian and peacekeeping operations.

Ready for Rapid Reaction, Jun 42; Recent months of heightened world tension have kept the 450-member Allied Command, Europe, Rapid Reaction Corps on constant high alert.

The Other Afghan Campaign, Jul 14; U.S. soldiers were among those aiding Afghan civilians following a massive earthquake.

Return to Kosovo, Jul 26; The May arrival of 1st Infantry Division units in the Balkans marked the division's return to Task Force Falcon for the first time since its elements left the beleaguered country in December 2000.

Bringing Health to Honduras, Jul 42; Patients come from far and wide when JTF-Bravo medical teams set up shop in rural villages.

Bosnia Update, Aug 32; From throughout the Balkan nation come these stories of the Army's continuing mission

A Hot and Deadly Mission, Aug 36; Army EOD experts answered the call for help following a disaster in Nigeria.

A Search for the Missing, Aug 46; A Hawaii-based team journeyed to remote

Kwajalein Atoll to search for the remains of Americans missing since World War II. *Europe's Premier Training Sites*, Oct 4; When it comes to maneuver or live-fire training in Europe, soldiers know that Hohenfels and Grafenwöhr can't be beat. *The AMC Team*, Oct 31; AMC's major subordinate commands are hard at work on a wide range of sophisticated systems that will ensure the Army's continued dominance of land warfare. *The Army's Floating Brigade*, Nov 24; Ships based at an Indian Ocean island carry a potent array of Army combat power.

Off Duty

Rocky Mountain Blue, Feb 16; A new Department of Defense resort in the Colorado Rockies offers guests a range of year-round activities.

Exploring Greece's Past and Present, Apr 19; For Larissa-based soldiers and their families, living in Greece offers the chance to explore in depth the vibrant and beautiful land where Socrates once roamed.

Ach, the Pipes!, Jul 28; Playing the bagpipes is one way of socializing and building community spirit on Kwajalein Atoll. *Soldiers on Stage*, Aug 16; The talents of 24 soldiers are front and center as the 2002 U.S. Army Soldier Show hits the stage.

People

Muslim and Soldier, Feb 30; The first of the Army's seven Muslim chaplains speaks out on faith, duty and the true nature of terrorism.

An Author's Quest, Mar 33; Joseph L. Galloway was the first civilian journalist to receive a Bronze Star with "V" device for valor. His experience in Vietnam led him to tell the story of the soldiers he fought with.

A Commander Remembers, Mar 36; Retired LTG Harold G. Moore was the first man on the ground with his troops during the November 1965 battle at Landing Zone X-ray.

The Verminator, Apr 22; Franco Lidron is no heartless killer, though the squeamish have been known to scream while he works.

A Handsome Man, Nov 9; Perhaps the oldest U.S. service member in Afghanistan, COL Narayan Desmukh is also one of the most dedicated.

Through an Artist's Eyes, Nov 46; This soldier-artist helped record the Army's efforts in peace and war.

September 11 Anniversary

Attack on America, Sep; This special edition of *Soldiers* is a pictorial record of our nation's continuing response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on America.

Technology

The Army's FutureCar, Apr 24; In operation, the concept vehicle unveiled at the Detroit Auto Show is 90-percent defensive, 10-percent lethal and 100-percent excitement.

One Tough Track, Dec 30; The Army and Marine Corps have joined forces to create a challenging test track for new vehicles.

Training

Victory Strike II, Feb 36; An exercise in Poland brought together soldiers from four nations, and marked the largest U.S. troop movement in Europe in recent history.

Firefighter University, May 24; Located at Goodfellow AFB, Texas, the Louis F. Garland Fire Academy produces firefighters for all of the nation's military services.

Learning to Master the Mountains, Jun 10; Instructors at the Colorado National Guard's High-Altitude Army Aviation Training Site are ensuring that Army aviators have the graduate-level skills necessary to tackle increasingly frequent high-country missions in Afghanistan, Central

America and here at home.

Clearing the Caves, Jun 16; Lessons learned in Afghanistan led the Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to add innovative cave-clearing training to the curriculum of the Engineer Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course.

The NBC Detectives, Oct 14; A challenging exercise at Dugway Proving Ground tested the NBC skills of soldiers and scientists from the U.S. and 14 European countries. *Stryker in the Spotlight*, Dec 14; The new wheeled infantry carrier vehicle was the center of attention during recent exercises at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Kitchen Artistry, Dec 20; Army chefs are dedicated to providing soldiers with wholesome, nutritious meals.

War on Terrorism

The Anthrax Threat, Feb 4; Army researchers joined their civilian counterparts in dealing with the threat posed by anthrax and other infectious diseases.

Defending the Home Front, Feb 12; National Guard soldiers have rallied to the nation's defense, helping to protect vital structures and facilities across the nation.

Repairing the Pentagon, Mar 16; Construction teams have been working around the clock since Sept. 11 to repair the damage done to the historic Pentagon.

Task Force Rakkasans, Apr 4; For soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, duty in Afghanistan is anything but routine.

MPs in Afghanistan, Apr 9; The 519th Military Police Battalion is ensuring that the Kandahar detainee facility is secure.

Kandahar's Supply Hub, May 4; When transports bearing vital supplies land at Afghanistan's main airport, soldiers ensure the offload goes like clockwork.

Coalition Team Clears Land Mines, May 8; Clearing explosives that litter Afghanistan in which coalition forces operate is a vital and potentially deadly mission.

EOD in Afghanistan, Jun 32; The 710th Ordnance Company is clearing sites in Afghanistan that are littered with unexploded bombs, mines and other munitions.

On Guard at Guantanamo, Jul 4; Soldiers serving at Camp X-ray in Cuba undertake a range of missions, but none more important than guarding Taliban and al-Qaeda detainees.

High-Tech Guard Duty, Jul 8; Soldiers from the Texas-based 4th Infantry Division, the Army's "digital division," are using some advanced systems to help secure Camp X-ray and the detainees it houses.

Training an Afghan Army, Aug 4; As part of the global war against terrorism, soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, are helping train the troops who will become the nucleus of the new — and united — Afghan National Army.

The Pentagon Attack Remembered, Oct 2; A ceremony at the Pentagon honored those who died on Sept. 11, and celebrated the building's rebirth.

First Steps to Recovery, Nov 4; Soldiers are helping repair the physical damage that is apparent everywhere throughout post-Taliban Afghanistan.

The Quick-Fix and Beyond, Nov 6; The Coalition Joint Civilian-Military Operations Task Force helps coordinate the efforts of relief agencies working in Afghanistan.

Water Works, Nov 8; Providing the Afghan people with wells, pumps and other water-supply facilities helps promote health, farm production and political stability.

September 11 Anniversary

Attack on America, Sep; This special edition of *Soldiers* is a pictorial record of our nation's continuing response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on America.

Author Index

Baker, PFC Jason B: *A Jump to Celebrate*, Jun 27.
 Benner, SFC Brenda: *The Blue-Green Christmas*, Dec 33.
 Betancourt, SSG Alberto: *Repairing the Pentagon*, Mar 16; *America's Lasting Monument*, Mar 18; *Art From the Heart*, Mar 20; *Task Force Rakkasans*, Apr 4; *MPs in Afghanistan*, Apr 9; *Kandahar's Supply Hub*, May 4; *Coalition Team Clears Land Mines*, May 8; *On Guard at Guantanamo*, Jul 4; *A Twilight Stroll Through Army History*, Aug 20; *Fort McHenry, Birthplace of America's National Anthem*, Nov 22; *One Tough Track*, Dec 30.
 Bingham, MSG Debra: *High-Tech Guard Duty*, Jul 8.
 Burlas, Joe: *The Pentagon Attack Remembered*, Oct 2; *Updating the OER System*, Nov 14.
 Carson, SPC Jamie: *The Culinary Masters*, Jun 4.
 Charlton, SPC Chris: *Clearing the Caves*, Jun 16.
 Chucala, Steven: *Soldiers and the Gun Control Act*, Mar 42; *Get Off the Debt Wagon*, May 38; *Making a Better Move*, Oct 18; *The Lease You Should Do*, Dec 42.
 DeMaio, SPC Douglas: *Best Rangers 2002*, Aug 28.
 Foss, Adriane: *Understanding Islam*, Feb 33.
 Foster, Renita: *Marking the Distance Home*, May 40.
 Garamone, Jim: *U.S. Northern Command Debuts in October*, Jul 24.
 Harding, Steve: *Firefighter University*, May 24; *Learning to Master the Mountains*, Jun 10; *Kwajalein: More Than Rocket Science*, Jul 28; *Island Life*, Jul 34; *The Soldier Perspective*, Jul 36; *Ach, the Pipes!*, Jul 38; *By Air and by Sea*, Jul 39; *The Dawn of the Modern Army*, Oct 44; *The Army's Floating Brigade*, Nov 24; *Island Focus*, Nov 30; *Stryker in the Spotlight*, Dec 14.
 Hart, SSG Marcia: *West Point's Other Soldiers*, Mar 11.
 Hasenauer, Heike: *The Anthrax Threat*, Feb 4; *Black Hawk Down*, Feb 40; *We Were Soldiers*, Mar 26; *An Author's Quest*, Mar 33; *A Commander Remembers*, Mar 36; *Air-Land Ambulance*, Mar 44; *Forward Eyes and Ears*, Apr 40; *Memories of "BK"*, May 18; *Helping the Stork*, May 22; *Dealing with Death*, May 44; *Reaching Out to the Bereaved*, Jun 18; *Ready for Rapid Reaction*, Jun 42; *The Army Game*, Aug 22; *The War on Terrorism*, Sep 4; *Europe's Premier Training Sites*, Oct 4; *AMC—Paving the Way to the Army's Future*, Oct 24; *The AMC Team*, Oct 31; *Personalizing the Past*, Nov 16; *From Horse Blood to Hot Pockets*, Dec 24.
 Haskell, MSG Bob: *Defending the Home Front*, Feb 12; *Summer School for Officers*, Apr 30; *On the Border*, Aug 40; *Fighting the Wildfire Wars*, Oct 20; *Leapfest 2002*, Dec 34.
 High, Gil: *Guide to Writing and Shooting for Soldiers Magazine*, Feb insert.
 Huhn, SGT Robb: *First Steps to Recovery*, Nov 4.
 Hunt, SGT Brent and Roche, Bill: *Victory Strike II*, Feb 36.
 Ide, Douglas: *Utah Gold*, Feb 15.
 Lane, MSG Larry: *Return to Kosovo*, Jul 26.
 Magee, 2nd Lt. Virgil: *Rocky Mountain Blue*, Feb 16.
 Marck, SPC David: *EOD in Afghanistan*, Jun 32.
 McBride, SGT Sharon: *The Difference Between Life and Death*, Jun 28.
 McElveen, Renee: *National Guard Update*, Jul 16.
 McQueen, Arthur: *A Hot and Deadly Mis-*

sion, Aug 36.
 Monroy, SGT Daniel: *WHINSEC: Strengthening International Ties*, Jun 34.
 Pacard, MAJ Stephan: *Tomorrow's Classroom*, Nov 32.
 Plata, CPL Holly: *The Other Afghan Campaign*, Jul 14.
 Portman, Gunnery Sgt. Charles: *Training an Afghan Army*, Aug 4.
 Pullen, LTC Randy and Leggieri, Rebecca P.: *The Reserve's Continuing Commitment*, Jul 20.
 Reece, Beth: *Muslim and Soldier*, Feb 30; *Duty in Greece*, Apr 14; *Exploring Greece's Past and Present*, Apr 19; *More Than a Patch*, May 14; *United by Old Glory*, Jun 22; *Star Spangled Manners*, Jun 26; *Soldiers on Stage*, Aug 16; *Through an Artist's Eyes*, Nov 46; *Hot Topics* inserts Feb, May, Aug, Nov; *Serving God and Country*, Dec 4; *Kitchen Artistry*, Dec 20.
 Rejcek, Peter: *A Search for the Missing*, Aug 46.
 Siemieniec, SSG Jack: *National Maintenance Training Center*, Feb 18.
 Slee, John and Key, 1LT David: *A Tank to Remember*, May 42.
 Snyder, SFC Lisa Beth: *Cashing in on the GI Bill*, Mar 22; *Using the Montgomery GI Bill*, Mar 24; *ARC on the Move*, Apr 44; *Keeping Families Informed*, Apr 46; *Know Them Before You Need Them*, Apr 46.
 Thomas-Gates, SSG Zelda: *The Quick-Fix and Beyond*, Nov 6; *Water Works*, Nov 8.
 Tolliver, SPC Rachael: *The Return of the Service Flag*, Jul 46.
 Tolzmann, Michael: *The Verminator*, Apr 22.
 Tombrello, Joe: *West Point at 200*, Mar 4; *Prepping for the Point*, Mar 10.
 Vogel, Al: *The NBC Detectives*, Oct 14.
 Volb, Tech. Sgt. G. A.: *Bringing Health to Honduras*, Jul 42; *Special Assignment: Soto Cano*, Nov 34.
 Ward, Dennis and High, Gil: *The Army's FutureCar*, Apr 24.
 Wiggins, LTC Mark H.: *Ecybermission*, Oct 17.
 Wiley, SPC Jonathan: *Search and Rescue Challenge*, Aug 12.
 Williams, SGT Calvin: *A Handsome Man*, Nov 9.
 Young, SSG George; Lunato, SPC Michelle; Oliver, SPC Vincent: *Bosnia Update*, Aug 32.

Photo Contributors

Allen, George: *The Other Afghan Campaign*, Jul 14; *EOD in Afghanistan*, Jun 32.
 Betancourt, SSG Alberto: *High-Tech Guard Duty*, Jul 8.
 Curtis, Wayne N.: *Sharp Shooters*, Feb 34.
 Disney, Paul: *Defending the Home Front*, Feb 12; *Muslim and Soldier*, Feb 30; *Victory Strike II*, Feb 36; *Art From the Heart*, Mar 20; *More Than a Patch*, May 14; *The Culinary Masters*, Jun 4; *Clearing the Caves*, Jun 16; *United by Old Glory*, Jun 22; *Search and Rescue Challenge*, Aug 12; *Kitchen Artistry*, Dec 20.
 Gamble, Tech. Sgt. Gerold: *Tomorrow's Classroom*, Nov 32.
 Graves, SGT William A.: *Sharp Shooters*, May 36.
 Harding, Steve: *A Search for the Missing*, Aug 46.
 Hasenauer, Heike: *The Difference Between Life and Death*, Jun 28.
 High, Gil: *The Army's FutureCar*, Apr 24.
 Jordan, Jonas N.: *Sharp Shooters*, Nov 38.
 Kieffer, Gary L.: *Duty in Greece*, Apr 14; *Exploring Greece's Past and Present*, Apr 19.
 Skidmore, Gary: *Sharp Shooters*, Oct 38.
 Terry, SGT Sean A.: *Water Works*, Nov 8.
 Trubia, Robert: *Utah Gold*, Feb 15.
 Underhill, Sarah: *Sharp Shooters*, Apr 36.
 Wylie, SPC James: *Sharp Shooters*, Dec 36.



The Corps Engages: White House Engineers

COL Thomas L. Casey's appointment began the 57-year tradition of an Army engineer occupying the position of White House administrator.

IN early 1877 President Ulysses S. Grant appointed COL Thomas L. Casey the commissioner of public buildings for the District of Columbia, which also made Casey administrator of the White House. Thus began the 57-year tradition of an Army engineer occupying that position. That officer also served as the Army's military aide to the president. This custom lasted until 1934 when, as part of a larger reorganization, President Franklin D. Roosevelt transferred that position to the National Park Service. Prior to Casey's appointment, the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of History.

Army officer selected could come from any branch of the Army.

COL Spencer Cosby, who served as White House administrator and commissioner from March 1909 to October 1913, oversaw design and construction of new executive offices at the White House. One new office for President William H. Taft's use became known as the Oval Office.

Appropriately, the last engineer officer to serve as the White House administrator was COL Ulysses S. Grant III, grandson of the president who first appointed an Army engineer. □



COL Spencer Cosby (center) commissioner of public buildings and grounds for the District of Columbia, and President Woodrow Wilson (right) prepare to leave the White House for the inaugural parade in 1913.



BLANCHARD, DAVIS AND DAWKINS

SINCE the 1935 inception of the Heisman Trophy, three Army players have garnered the award: Felix A. Blanchard in 1945 (Class of 1947); Glenn W. Davis in 1946 (Class of 1947) and Peter M. Dawkins in 1958 (Class of 1959). Only three other schools have had more winners.

